

# ~~Terre Haute (T.H.)~~ / History (T.H.)

# Prohibition, bootlegging, KKK

T JUN 13 1981

# among topic discussions slated

Six prominent Terre Haute citizens will discuss the social and political issues that have helped shape Terre Haute since the turn of the century in a live oral history program next Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Vigo County Public Library.

"Looking Back: the Crossroads of the World" will feature Leland Larison, former mayor; Sid Levin, co-owner of Corner Furniture Store; Lenhardt Bauer, retired attorney; Demetrius Ewing, owner of National Tailors; Frances "Tanky" Hughes, free-lance journalist; and Robert Nesbit, retired sports editor of the Terre Haute Tribune.

The group will discuss prohibition, bootlegging, the Ku Klux Klan and various labor movements including the general strike of 1935.

Members will share their memories of well-known political figures, the "infamous" Red Light District and society in the days of King Classical School and vaudeville at the Hippodrome and other theaters.

Following the program, an open discussion will provide opportunity for audience members to ask questions and share personal memories of Terre Haute.

Nesbit will present a selection of old time piano tunes and the Vigo County Historical Society's "Year of the Historic Photograph" exhibit will be on display.

The Saturday program in the culminating public activity of the Vigo County Oral History Program

entitled "Terre Haute, Indiana: The Crossroads of the World." The project, which was begun last July, will result in a collection of 50 recorded interviews of area residents whose recollections are considered valuable for preserving the history of the area.

The free program, open to the public, is a presentation of the Vigo County Oral History Program, co-sponsored by the library and the Wabash Valley Press Club and supported through a matching grant from the Indiana Committee for the Humanities and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Jayne Lloyd, media relations supervisor at the library and Jim Wright, news director at WVTS radio and press club president, will serve as moderators of the program.

REFERENCE  
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Community Affairs File

History (T. H.)

# The origin of Spelterville

By JUDY STEDMAN CALVERT

Information for this article was gathered from newspaper articles in the Tribune, (1915-1936), the Saturday Spectator (1930), and Indiana Bureau of Mines and Mining Reports (1923-1950). In addition, Mrs. Dick Moy, who has lived in Spelterville since 1940, Mr. Jack Stevenson, who worked in the Saxton Mine for 32 years, and Ralph Baxter, who came to North Terre Haute to work in the mine in 1929, gave me several leads and lots of information about Spelterville, the Saxton Mine, and Grasselli Chemical Co. Also, Mr. Ken Martin, whose brother, Ray, worked at Grasselli during the summers while he attended Rose Poly, was the first to tell me that "spelter" means zinc and Spelterville was not named after a Mr. Spelter!

In March, 1915, the Grasselli Chemical Company purchased 265 acres of land on North Thirteenth Street Road. This was the beginning of a new, but short-lived industry in Otter Creek Township; however, out of this new industry grew a small community, Spelterville, which still exists today.

The plant in Vigo County, one of seventeen owned by the Grasselli Chemical Co. in various parts of the United States, produced zinc from ore mined mainly in Idaho and Wisconsin. During peak production the plant shipped out two car loads of zinc daily. The zinc was used for galvanizing, used in the manufacturing of

brass, and was rolled into sheets. In 1922 the company employed 325 men and had a payroll of \$35,000 per month.

The original property purchased included land owned by Dr. Walter Schell, Ulysses Blocksom, Louise Butler, Ransom Phillips, Ella Thompson, George Butler, Samuel Frost and Samuel Frost, Jr., Lizzie Stoner, John Butler, Alfred Christ, and Charles Birch.

In 1936 when the property was sold, land formerly owned by the Coppage, Frisz, McCoy, and Jacob Stump families was also included in the 1,915 acres then owned by Grasselli.

"Spelter" means zinc. Spelterville was the name given to the community of houses built by the Grasselli Chemical Co. for workers. There were big plans for Spelterville. The Grasselli plant was to be the biggest in the world and needed workers close by. Forty acres were subdivided and platted for residences. One block was earmarked for six modern residences for officers of the company. These are the large, two-story houses on N. 13th St. Electric power, water and a sewage system for the big houses was furnished by the chemical company. The houses were rented for \$20 a month, including these utilities.

Two blocks facing N. 13th St. were for the business district, which was to include grocery stores, meat markets, drugstores, picture shows, a bowling alley and pool and billiard rooms. The large two-story, brick

building which now houses Spelterville Inn was built for the grocery store and was fireproof and heated by steam—very modern for its day. Marie Shields operated the grocery store at one time and the post office in this building.

Otter Creek Township had a grade school in one of the small houses in Spelterville for some years.

Foulkes Construction Co. built many of the four and five-room workmen's houses. The homes were heralded as being much more attractive and permanent than the homes usually built for factory workers. The four-room houses had electricity and the five-room houses had bathrooms and furnaces.

George Foulkes, the building contractor, was quoted in a Tribune-Star article in 1917 as saying, "Spelterville will be one of the most attractive little towns in the United States." The streets were paved and sidewalks were built by the Connery Land

Co. at a cost of \$8,500. Foulkes gave several advantages to living in Spelterville.

"First, the air is much purer and the town will be much cleaner than Terre Haute. Therefore, it will be an ideal place for children. There is in connection with each home a space sufficient for a garden spot. If a man does not have to lose so much time going back and forth on the cars he can have plenty of time to cultivate his garden. It will be recreation as well as remunerative for him."

"Then the car fare in the course of a month would be a matter of dollars, which nobody is caring about losing these days. Twenty cents a day amounts up."

"Also, and very important, the company, I believe plans to run three shifts of workmen, eight hours each. One of these shifts will go on about four o'clock in the morning. It would be very inconvenient to say the least for the four a.m. shift to have to

(Continued on Page 6)



(Continued from Page 1)

take a car in time to get to work. Then, some man might be taken sick suddenly and another would be called to fill his place, or some such other emergency might arise. All such cases could be met very simply by the man being on the ground."

It took two years to build the plant and workers were brought out from Terre Haute by a train which left Union Station daily. The interurban was to connect Spelterville with Terre Haute when the town was completed.

The chemical plant included several buildings, a 17 foot high, 500 foot wide embankment was built, and five tunnels under the plant were dug to the ovens needed for the recovery of zinc from ore. The plant consumed 250 tons of coal daily. The C.&E.I. Railroad and the Pennsylvania Railroad served the plant during its construction and later for shipping.

Including the two years of construction, the chemical plant was in operation about 15 years. Initially, Spanish workers were brought in by the company and made up about 50 percent of the work force. The Spaniards were about the only workers willing to work close to the huge ovens. However, between 1919 and 1922 the Spanish workers led 3 strikes and caused the plant to shut down for long periods of time. One strike (1919) of 150 Spaniards was for an 8 hour work day and additional help at the ovens during the summer months. They also wanted recognition of the union and re-hiring after the strike by seniority. These demands were met after two month shut-down.

In 1922 when the plant re-opened after being closed for two years, Plant Superintendent E. J. Jones, announced that only American labor would be hired, hopefully eliminating strikes and labor

difficulties. Also, at this time, a coal shaft was being sunk on the property to supply coal for the plant and help reduce costs.

The Grasselli Chemical Co. closed their Spelterville plant in 1930 because developments in machinery used to manufacture zinc had made it possible to produce three times the amount of zinc with the same force of men. Thus, the local plant was out of date.

The Saxton Coal Mining Co., owned by the Miami Coal Co., opened the Saxton Mine No. 1 in 1923 on the banks of the Wabash River. The Miami Coal Co. and Grasselli Chemical Co. were given a permit to mine coal from under the river and pay the State of Indiana 10 cents a ton for all coal taken from the area under the river. The mine continued to operate even after the close of Grasselli. The Saxton Coal Co. operated it until the early 1930's and then it was run by Allen Gorsky for a firm out of Chicago. E. I. DuPont bought all the land, the mine, the plant, and the town of Spelterville in 1936. DuPont never did re-open the plant and Gorsky continued to operate the mine at cost plus 10 percent for the company. In 1938, the Walter Bledsoe Coal Co. bought the mine and operated it until 1954 when it closed permanently.

The Indiana Bureau of Mines and Mining reports indicate that six men were killed in mine accidents at Saxton Mine from 1940 to 1944. (Louis Calvetti-Dec. 23, 1940; Frank Penman-Mar. 11, 1943; William Melroy Church-Sept. 30, 1942; Leonard Francis-July 11, 1942; Robert O. Jones-June 9, 1944; and Norman Skinner-Dec. 19, 1943). The reports do not indicate individual's names for other years.

In 1955 the big, two-story company houses were converted to public utilities. All the homes in Spelterville are now owned by

individuals. The big plans for the little community never materialized; it has never had a business district and has never grown any larger than the original plan. The

Grasselli Chemical Co. and the Saxton Mine have faded from the scene, but Spelterville still exists and is home to many Otter Creek residents.



THE GRASSELLI CHEMICAL COMPANY built its local plant on N. 13th Street Road in 1915. The small community of Spelterville was built to house company officials and workers from the plant. Parts of some of the

Grasselli buildings can still be seen from N. 13th St. and the US 41 Bypass. (Photo courtesy the Vigo County Historical Society)



# Recollections

T s SEP 19 1982

REFERENCE  
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## of Terre Haute in the 1920s

By **ROBERT E. CRAMER**  
Special to the Valley

We made one of our frequent trips to Terre Haute recently — my wife and I — to visit my mother.

A stop at the Blossom Shop on East Ohio Street awakened a cluster of happy memories. Sixty years ago a grocery store was located on that corner, operated by Mason and Mason.

As was true of most grocery stores of that era, a large bread box was located in front of the building. The delivery man from the several bakeries deposited the day's supply of bread in the container in the early hours of the morning prior to the store's opening.

Many of the boxes were equipped with a latch and lock. I do not recall that particular detail of the box owned by Mason and Mason, but I do remember that on one summer morning when hundreds of Terre Hauteans were waiting along the street to view the circus parade I slid down the metal lid of the box and tore out the seat of my new trousers.

In those days almost every circus which came to town had a parade, proceeding east on Ohio to the vicinity of 25th Street and Wabash Avenue.

From 19th Street on to Deming Park, Ohio remains yet today one of the most spacious thoroughfares in America. Each time our shopping chores require us to follow that route with its wide esplanade as we always make the same observation: this should be the model for every street in every American city.

In the 1920s Ohio was not an ordinary street. It was Ohio Boulevard because it was adorned with a somewhat narrower esplanade extending from the C. and E.I. Railroad tracks east to 19th Street. As a boy I enjoyed riding or walking on this charming, tree-lined street.

The South 17th Street jitneys used Ohio Boulevard, turning south at 17th Street and proceeding on to Hulman. At the corner of 13th and Ohio streets — recall that here the South 17th Street cars crossed Ohio — a traffic policeman resembling a

Keystone Cop stationed himself with his stop-and-go manual sign to direct the traffic of this busy intersection.

No one could reside in Terre Haute during the first three decades of this century without riding the trolleys. There were 10 routes. The fare was five cents and transfers were free. One could ride from West Terre Haute to Highland Lawn for one nickel.

The one-man cars which clanged and jolted along the brick streets in the 1920s and 1930s were known as Birney Safety Cars, but I have vague recollections of their predecessors, cars which required a motorman and a conductor. When the Birney cars first went into service they were painted green, consequently the patrons called them "Green Bugs," but sometime during that decade the traction company changed the color to yellow.

My memory also goes back to the open cars which were operated during the summer months on East Wabash, and particularly on those days when there was a baseball game. When my great Aunt Lou from Philadelphia came to visit my grandmother we all took the trolley to Highland Lawn, one of the tourist attractions of the city. On our return we rode the summer car. The speed was so great — at least 25 miles an hour — that my sailor hat blew off to a passenger a few seats in the rear.

One wonders why the city fathers permitted the destruction of those old summer cars. Today they are antique pieces found only in a few trolley museums scattered across the country. Up until after World War II scores of them were used in New Haven to transport the football fans from the depot to the Yale Bowl. Who knows, if Terre Haute had preserved those open cars it might have been become a tourist mecca, vying with the cable cars of San Francisco.

Street cars held a special fascination for me. In those days patrons could purchase a dollar weekly pass which permitted them to ride on any line as frequently as they desired for one dollar per week. In 1926 my

parents gave me one of those passes for my birthday. For seven days I rode over and over on all 10 lines.

Even more impressive were those massive black wooden monsters known as interurbans which connected Terre Haute with Paris, Clinton, Sullivan, Brazil and Indianapolis. Unlike the street cars they did not clang; they rumbled, rattling the windows of many a dwelling as they hurried toward the open countryside.

I was also familiar with their schedules and routes. The Clinton and Paris cars departed every hour on the hour. The Sullivan and Indianapolis lines had varied schedules. But as I recall, at 5 p.m., the cars for Paris, Clinton and Sullivan departed at the same time. The Sullivan car pulled a second coach known as "Amy." All automobile traffic stopped while these giants of the rails swung around Eighth Street onto Wabash. The Sullivan car, before it could pick up speed, had to negotiate a second curve as it made the sharp turn from Wabash to Seventh Street.

The stop at the Blossom Shop awakened another memory. Two doors away was once the residence of my first-grade teacher, Opal Edwards. As her name implied, she was a gem. She was pretty, petite and young. To a six-year-old, anyone past 20 is aged, but in spite of this bias, I knew that Miss Edwards was young. Even mother referred to her as a girl. For aught I knew ours may have been her first class.

We met in the small room on the second floor of Davis Park referred to as the old German room which is indicative that prior to World War I a foreign language was taught in the elementary grades.

Davis Park was an excellent school. This testimony is not uttered lightly but as a consequence of having attended two other schools and having taught in two high schools and two colleges. The principal was Anna Higgins. She had a broad face and possessed a full figure. She was Irish. She was firm but she was fair.

I have no way of knowing how

her staff of teachers appraised her, but from this distance in time I surmise that Miss Higgins operated a "tight ship." The building was always clean. The concrete hall floors, painted gray, testified to an efficient janitorial staff of a man and a woman. No graffiti was to be found on the walls of the boys' rest room.

Davis Park was the only school of my acquaintance where the students processed to music as they entered the building. Each morning and noon we gathered at the west entrance of the building and when the bell rang we walked to our rooms while one of the teachers played the upright piano located on the first floor hall. We were not regimented; we did not march two by two, but we did move in an orderly fashion. There were no drug problems in that long-ago day, and to my knowledge, not even tobacco was circulated clandestinely. Occasionally, there would be a fight on the playground among the boys, over marbles or other games, but these were promptly settled by Miss Higgins or one of our teachers.

I shall always be grateful that from kindergarten to the middle of the seventh grade I attended Davis Park.

Other visual images clamor for expression but space prohibits their recitation. There are auditory images, also, such as the melodious tones of the magnificent pipe organ of the Indiana Theater. And olfactory reminiscences such as the aroma of roasting coffee at Hulman and Company, the dulcet fragrance which hovered over the A. B. Mewinney candy factory on Ninth Street (there has never been a candy to duplicate its Snuggler), and the ambrosial atmosphere which was wafted from the Miller-Parrot Bakery.

If Steve Martin had grown up in Terre Haute in the 1920s with all of these tranquilizing memories he would not have had to issue an apology.

A glance at my watch indicates that it is nearly 4:30 p.m. In the 1920s the "Highlander" would soon be pulling out of the traction station, racing to Indianapolis in two hours and five minutes.



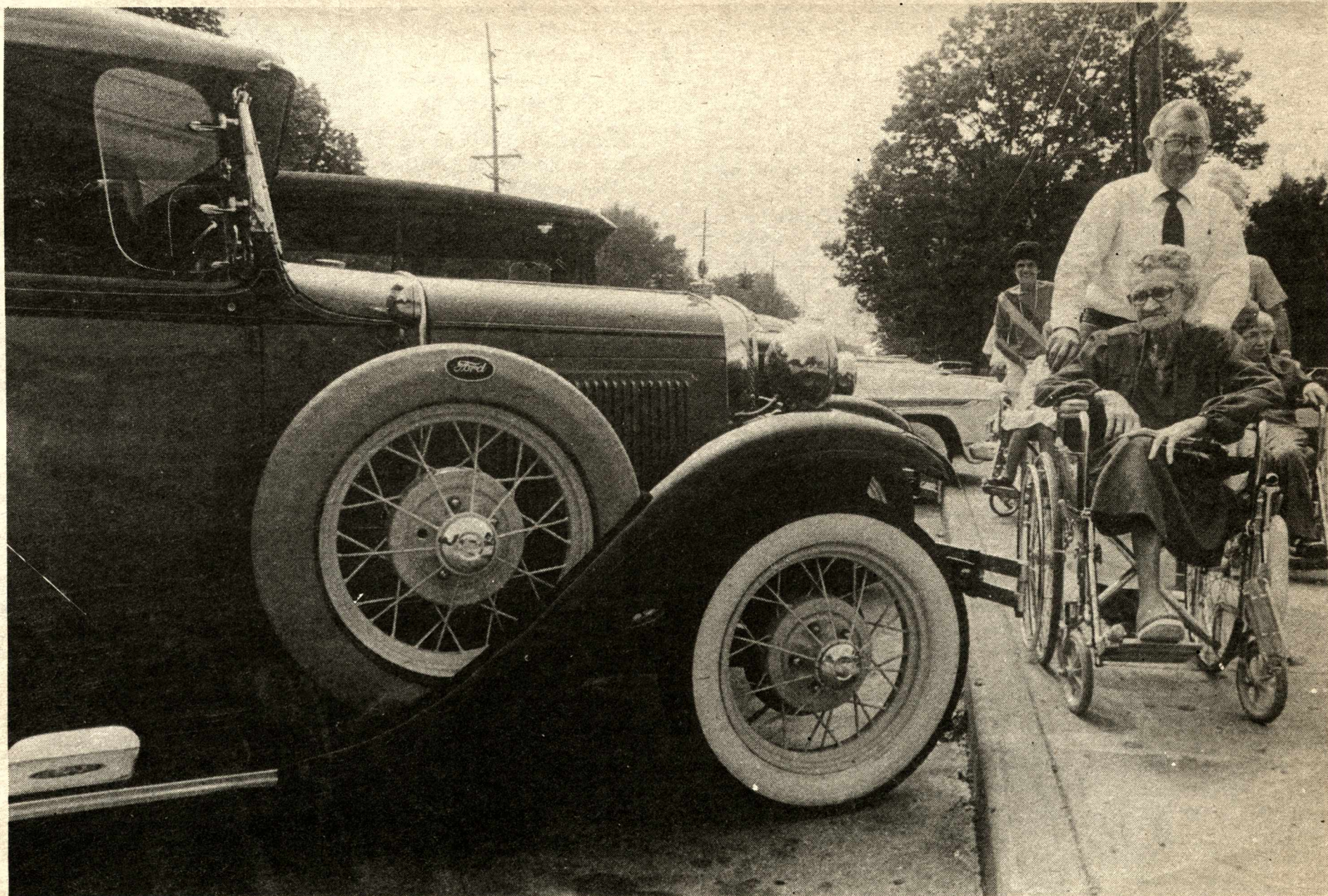
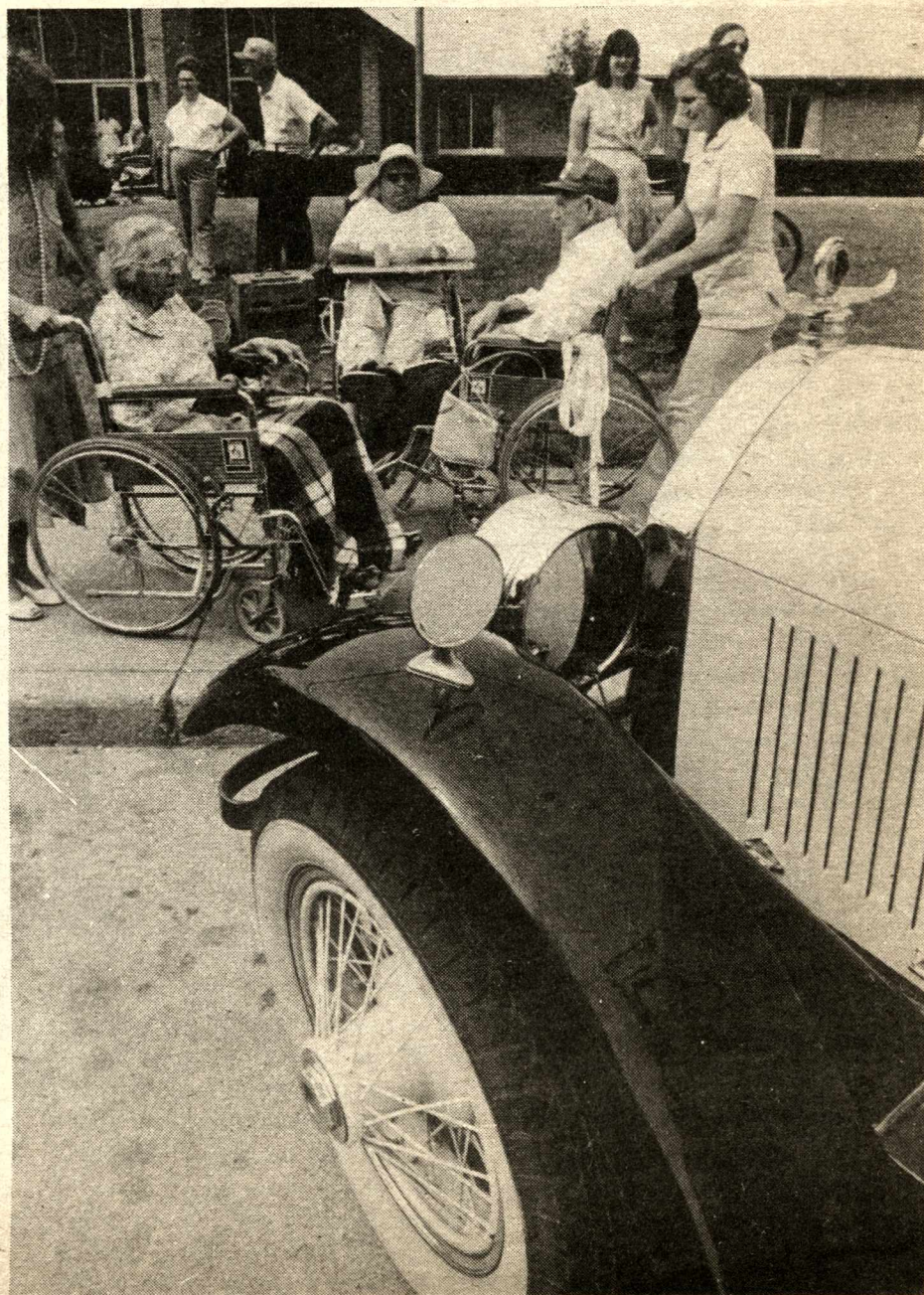
# Golden memories . . .

Residents of Meadows Manor East, 3300 Poplar St., were treated to a step back in time recently by members of the Antique and Classic Automobile Club of the Wabash Valley, Inc.

A glittering parade of 12 automobiles, ranging from a 1925 Stutz to a 1956 DeSoto, lined up for inspection by residents, family members and friends. Rides were also offered and many men and women quietly recalled the days when they owned and drove such cars.

It was an especially happy day for William Edgington, who just a couple of days later celebrated his 102nd birthday. Edgington rode down Poplar Street in the bright yellow 1925 Stutz.

Valley Photos by Randy Prophet





# Bootleggers

## Feds' raid in '29 made big headlines

Community Affairs File

Ts AUG 23 1984

HISTORY-(TH)

Tuesday, July 16, 1929 — "Bad Day at Terre Haute" — for bootleggers and those who consumed the product of at least one of the bootleggers.

The headlines in The Tribune of that date read "Federal Agents Wreck Plant." The subhead stated "Officers Destroy Still Equipment," and further, "Thirsty Spectators Join in With Mournful Cadence as Thousands of Nips Are Lost."

The raid was staged by Sheriff Joe Dreher and deputies shortly before noon on a still located near Burnett in Nevins Township. The federal agents wrecked the equipment at the site. The still was brought to Terre Haute — at least a portion of it. Seized along with the equipment were two tons of sugar, 200 pounds of yeast, a quantity of five-gallon cans and several cans of the finished product — white lightning.

The operation was capable of producing 60,000 gallons of illegal alcohol. According to the story, this was the largest still found in Indiana since passage of the

### Main Street



Richard Tuttle, who retired from The Tribune-Star in 1983, is a walking compendium of Terre Haute's history.

By Richard C. Tuttle  
Assistant Editor Emeritus

### Volstead Act.

The property, hidden in the hills near Burnett on the farm of George Aiducks, included a three-room camp shelter, a building of tile blocks containing five huge wooden vats of 6,000 gallons capacity each (and containing working mash), and a third building with two vats of 12,000 gallons each, also with working mash. Lookout buildings also were located on the lane leading back into the site.

The raid was a surprise, but the men ran and all but one getting away in the exchange of shots. One man, Ivan Mooney, became frightened when "the bullets from Deputy Sheriff Joe Dreher's gun began fanning about his ears," and dropped to the ground and was captured. Another man, John Barale of Burnett, was arrested as the driver of the truck which was driven into the site and abandoned during the chase. A third man, Fred Kettler, Terre Haute, was arrested later when it was found the truck was registered in his name.

According to the story, the value of the still and vats, plus ingredients, was in excess of \$12,000. According to the article, written "By Staff Correspondent," the used mash was fed to hogs which roamed the hills. (When prohibition was repealed, used mash was fed to cattle and hogs alike, purchased by farmers from breweries and distilleries.)

Onlookers gathered at the scene,

and choruses for "Sweet Adeline" were frequently heard.

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The small bakery located near 14th and Wabash some years ago was Schwerdt and Kipple. The bakery had the finest pumpernickel. There was also a shoe store located on the east side of 12th and Wabash — Paitson Shoes. Bresett's Grocery was another firm missed in the resume. Charley Bresett had the store there for years.

☆☆☆

One of the three Evans boys in the J.S. Evans Bicycle Shop, Walter Evans, is still living and is over 92 years of age.

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Mrs. Clyde Shake tells us she had three sons who carried The Star, and her husband had a Tribune bulk route. The boys got their papers at the 12 Points substation. She has a marvelous memory, and can tell many stories that occurred some threescore years and 10 ago.

Community Affairs File

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## Main Street



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Assistant Editor Emeritus

# History of city worth studying

SEP 6 1984

There has been no definitive history of Vigo County (and Terre Haute) published since 1910. There have been publications of history covering specific periods, and a pictorial history, as well as a volume of noted personages in the area at a specific time. All are valuable, and could be utilized as resources for a volume of Vigo County history.

For example, some years ago, Terre Haute did not have a sewage disposal plant, and the state had decreed that all communities should cease and desist allowing raw sewage going into streams or lakes or ponds. After plans were prepared, the cost was estimated at \$16,000,000. This would require a bond issue and a method devised to retire the bonds. This became a political issue with Mayor Ralph Tucker and Leonard Kincade on opposite sides — both rock-ribbed Democrats. Here is an important part of our history, and the story needs to be preserved.

The consolidation of schools from the township-county-city system to the present county system should have a complete chapter. The growth of higher education, from St. Mary-of-the-Woods College founded in 1849 to Indiana State University, Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology, Ivy Tech and business colleges serve as a basis for community and area growth.

Our mass transportation system, from horse-drawn street cars through the electric cars, interurbans, jitneys and buses, follows the change in transportation. Flying became a part of Terre Haute history very early, with the Johnson brothers, Paul Cox Field, to Indiana's finest airport today — Hulman Field.

The rise and decline of the downtown area, railroads, the coal industry, industrial changes, agriculture, changes in city and county government — including personnel involved — all form Terre Haute history.

Most of all, there are people who affected the changes, who led and guided and supported changes.

For example, during the regime of Mayor Sam Beecher, he spearheaded an effort to purchase the Terre Haute Water Works and make it a part of the city government. The Terre Haute Junior Chamber of Commerce did not support the idea, and when the matter was placed on the ballot in referendum, Jaycees took to political rallies speaking against the purchase. Mayor Sam lost. But some of that event's implications will be lost without written history.

In the late 1930s and early 1940s, the Jaycees led a citywide effort to improve the city's image. Labor leaders, industrial and financial and commercial leaders were involved. The campaign was carried into the schools, and there was a change. The people should be recognized and the story told.

Industrial changes have been many, and are still occurring. At one time, Terre Haute was the center of the glass business in Indiana. Its last operating plant recently closed. There were two breweries and a couple of distilleries here. There were railroad car shops and roundhouses here. This was the center of the trucking industry in the 1950s and 1960s.

There have been periodic attempts to gather some of the data and publish it. The Historical Society, the library and the ISU library are invaluable sources of information. City and county records provide more data. Such an effort would require many people and a lot of time. Is it worth it? Published history is always worth it.

Community Affairs File

Vigo County Public Library

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# Neighborhood was center of all family's activities

The "neighborhood" that many of us remember has ceased to exist.

Not too many decades ago, the neighborhood revolved around the elementary school, within walking distance of all the children in the district. In the same area were three or four churches representing the larger denominations. There were also one or two grocery stores, a drug store, and perhaps a gasoline station.

In Terre Haute there were many Oakley grocery stores, but these were not huge markets, just a bit larger than the corner grocery. The employees of the stores remained the same, and were a part of the neighborhood. There were two or three A&P stores, but they were rather small.

The school district was actually made up of several neighborhoods. The neighborhood may have been two or three blocks-by-a couple of blocks, largely determined by the number of children who attended the same school and played together after school. Their mothers and dads shopped at the same grocery or drug store and the families attended one of the churches nearby.

Fathers in the neighborhood rode to work on the streetcar or bus at the same time. Mothers sat together on the front porch, perhaps in the evening. There were few distractions. The kids played hide-and-seek or red light-green light. No raucous rock on radio or record blaring over the area, no TV soap or loud-mouth comedian pulling the family indoors. To cool off during the summer: free advertising fans from funeral homes or home remedy manufacturers.

A special event was a picnic in the park, mostly Collett Park because the North 8th Street street car line ran conveniently to Maple Ave. On Sundays there was an afternoon concert. If a family went to Deming Park, it was quite a walk from Wabash Ave. (the street car line) to Ohio Street and into the park — but many did it. In those days, not every family had an automobile, although Model Ts sold for only \$350 to \$500. In our block of 18 or so families, there were six cars.

The youngsters devised their own entertain-



## Main Street

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Assistant Editor Emeritus

ment — baseball, basketball, football, skating, ice skating, sledding, cops and robbers, cowboys and indians, marbles, pushmobile races, scooter races. There was very seldom a period of inactivity, of boredom.

There was rivalry among neighborhoods, sometimes in baseball on an empty lot (but suddenly no kids if a window was broken) or a basketball game with a single bankboard above a driveway. Now and then, it was a snowball fight or a scrap with wooden swords and a garbage can lid for a shield. No fun? We kids had lots of fun, even when it rained — with wooden ships in fast-running gutters or in bathing suits enjoying the rain and relief from the heat.

Of course, mothers and dads worried — but about falling out of trees or off garage roofs, or hits with an icy snowball, not about drugs or booze. In growing up in three or four neighborhoods, I don't recall any youngster running away from home — except maybe to grandma's a few blocks away.

Some of the neighborhood qualities could possibly be renewed — the friendliness, sharing, caring. This is not an advocacy to return to those days: I'd miss "Walk Through the 20th Century," "60 Minutes," "20/20," the re-runs of "M\*A\*S\*H" and news shows.



# Two blocks to disaster at Eighth and Wabash

T s MAY 28 1984

Community Affairs File

History (TH)

It was early in the 1950s. The location was Eighth and Wabash. Turners Drug Store was located on the northwest corner, complete with soda fountain. The time was afternoon.

Suddenly, there was a crash at the intersection; two cars were arguing about which had the green light. Neither driver was physically injured to any marked degree.

But, one of the cars was a brand new Chevrolet, just purchased at Downtown Chevrolet, then located at Eighth and Mulberry Streets. The proud owner had driven it two blocks to disaster.

Of course the story would be far more interesting if we were able to follow through as to the decision of the insurance companies involved: that is, who was at fault? But placing ourselves in the position of the new owner, with the new car aroma not even dulled — how would we feel?

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Three and four decades ago there was much more playing of practical jokes. In fact, there seemed to be much more fun. Now, we seem to be hiding our sense of humor under a basket, so to speak — too concerned with ourselves and not as much with our neighbors and friends.

One morning two weeks or so before Christmas, Lou Pearce received a tie in a gift box and Christmas card. It doesn't matter that the tie was a railroad tie, and a gift box for a tie was in the middle, attached with red ribbon and a card, "To Lou from Dick." From Dick Davis, of course.

Lou promptly sent the tie back to Davis (at McMillan's) with a note that it was the wrong color. Western Union messengers made the delivery.

Davis returned the tie, noting that it didn't fit.

Pearce usually decorated his display window with a nativity scene — sand and dunes and camels, a manger and a star and the usual correct items. However, this practice was discontinued when one Christmas a small toy battleship, a tank, some skiers and a sleigh pulled by horses were added to the scene. The culprits remain unknown — or almost.

Rudy Shonfield claimed he merely took advantage of situations, he did not play practical jokes on anyone. But there were some who disputed this claim.

During the late summer and fall of 1943, the American Legion was collecting money for playing cards for boys in the armed forces — Army, Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard. A



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trailer was set up at 6½ Street and Wabash Avenue, and during the day a 5-gallon glass jug was on a table on the sidewalk where shoppers could donate. Except on Saturday night, the jug was locked in the trailer about 6 p.m. by the last Legionnaire on duty.

Shonfield recruited J.B. Harned who worked at the Saturday Spectator in a scheme to frighten the Legionnaires. Instead of placing the jug in the trailer, the two would take it to the Spectator office, then report it stolen, and late at night return it to the trailer. But — Shonfield reported it to police and indicated it was hidden in the Spectator.

That's where it was found, and J.B. was duly taken in for questioning. Of course the police were in on the plot. Did J.B. get even? That is unknown — Shonfield had so many on the list trying to get even, just who did and didn't is unknown.

☆☆☆

There will be numerous tributes to Dr. Iverson Bell, a member of the Vigo County School Board for 20 years and an active community worker for a longer period.

As a member of the school board, Dr. Bell repeatedly demonstrated his concern for students — for what they were taught and the environment in which they learned. He was also concerned with teachers, and the quality of education.

He was concerned about Terre Haute, and often demonstrated his concern by working on boards and committees. He was also concerned about his patients — small animals who cannot tell where they hurt. And his concern reflected to the owners. He will be sorely missed as a civic leader, as a leader for quality education and by small pets and their owners.

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# Days of '23

Community Affairs File

History (TN)

## Low costs, top entertainment were the rule way back when

MAY 17 1984

New women's hats — silk or haircloth — \$5 at Siegels.

Sellers kitchen cabinet — \$39.50 to \$85 at Silverstein Bros. furniture store.

R.C. Harriott was secretary of the Wabash Savings, Loan & Building Association. Directors were Paul N. Bogart, John R. Connelly, Ora D. Davis, J.G. Van Winkle, M.S. Weills, W.W. Parsons and James S. Royse.

Ed Sparks and Bill Cody, who sold men's clothing at 715 Wabash Ave., were having a sale on men's furnishings at 25 percent off. Made-to-measure suits were \$28 and \$30 in a limited number of suitings.

The prices on Hupmobiles at Hedges Garage Inc., 434 N. Seventh St., were touring car, \$1,115; roadster, \$1,115; sport touring or roadster, \$1,215; two-passenger coupe, \$1,385; four-passenger coupe, \$1,535; and sedan, \$1,675.

Marion Davies was to appear at the Indiana Theater in "When Knighthood was in Flower," the costliest and longest movie in many years. Mrs. Fiske was appearing at the Grand Theater in "The Last Card," one performance only.

Rudolph Valentino was appearing at the Orpheum Theater in "Blood and Sand," with Lila Lee and Nita Naldi.

These are a few of the items appearing in the Jan. 6, 1923, issue of the Saturday Spectator — now 61 years ago.

The Hippodrome theater had six acts of vaudeville, with singing, dancing, a combination of the two, a comic and a specialty feature. Admission was 22 cents in the afternoon and 22 and 45 cents at night. There was a 10 percent wartime tax on the tickets (included), which had not been cancelled in 1923.

### Main Street



Richard Tuttle, who retired from The Tribune-Star in 1983, is a walking compendium of Terre Haute's history.

By Richard C. Tuttle

Assistant Editor Emeritus

The Spectator was published weekly on Friday afternoon and featured local general news, political news, financial news, a "Chat" column about people and events, written in an informal style; personal and society notes about people, parties, births and trips.

There were two features: "Society Notes of the Blazing Stump" and "Bill Smith Wants to Know" which attracted readers of all ages. While the Blazing Stump column got its name from a tavern on Wabash Avenue near the bridge, it concerned local business and professional men and politicians. Items appearing in this column had a foundation of truth but were sometimes embellished for color — and all in fun.

The Bill Smith page used initials, or a first name and initial in two or three-line paragraphs pertaining to rumors or secrets or half-truths. Again — all in fun — and embarrassing to some.

Central Auto Co., 118 N. Seventh St., featured the Hudson at \$2,095. Merchants Loan & Savings Association paid 6-percent interest, and the Citizens Bank & Trust Co. paid 4 percent!

All of this — and more — in 1923!



# Leadership of our past needs duplication now

T S JAN 30 1984

Community leaders are an invaluable commodity for any city or town. Terre Haute has had many over the years, men and women who had full-time jobs but spent considerable time in civic affairs, on this or the other committee, seeking to improve the community welfare. And the term "welfare" did not refer to the government-financed programs, but to the well-being of the town for all citizens.

For example, Ben Blumberg was largely responsible for the YMCA building at Sixth and Walnut streets. The first YMCA was on Ohio Street across from Mace Service, had a gym and a balcony, running track and a rather small swimming pool. Sam Huffman was director when I belonged.

The need for a larger building with facilities for more services had been evident for years. A fund-raising drive was initiated, and after many months, sufficient funds and pledges were raised to build the present facility. Ben Blumberg not only gave generously, but was active in the fund-raising effort. He also was instrumental in raising funds to purchase the land for the Vigo County Fairgrounds, and the large building and other improvements. This is only two of the many civic projects in which he was active.

The Hulman name is linked to many local buildings and programs which have been of great benefit to the city — with Rose-Hulman Institute and Indiana State University at the forefront. Hulman Field, one of Indiana's finest airport and the home of the Indiana Air National Guard 181st Tactical Fighter Squadron, was made possible through the philanthropy of Tony Hulman and his mother, Mrs. Anton Hulman Sr. The Early Wheels Museum has the second-finest collection of antique and classic automobiles in the state. Tony was active on the boards of several community service organizations.

Among earlier leaders were Maynard Wheeler, who was president of Commercial Solvents Corp., before its merger with IMC; George Felstein, Hillman's; Chester Jones, president of Herz store; Vern McMillan, McMillan Sports and mayor of Terre Haute in the 1940s; N.B. Ingram, then with D-X Sunray Oil; William V. Cahill.



## Main Street

By Richard  
Tuttle

*Tribune-Star  
Assistant Editor  
Emeritus*

Terre Haute Savings Bank: Harold Wright. Woolworth's: William V. Cronin. Terre Haute Tribune: James R. Benham. Terre Haute Star: Floyd Dix, attorney; Ray Hahn. Hahn Shoes: Salo Levite, Meis; and countless others.

During the late 1930s and until 1941, a group of Jaycees were very active in the community — and the phrase "Greater Terre Haute" originated with various programs under the organization's sponsorship. Among this group were Howard Batman, Tennyson Edwards, both attorneys; Herman Becker, Becker Shoes; Carl Bauermeister, Bauermeister Co.; Bill Mean. YMCA; Dave Bartram, accountant; Jim Jenkins. Tune Bros., and many others. By pushing and prodding, the group accomplished many things, including a tenuous agreement, unwritten, between labor and management leaders which led to cooperative effort for the town's benefit.

Leaders are both born and developed — some come by it naturally, others have it thrust on them. We could use either in these times.

DO NOT  
CIRCULATE

Community Affairs File



# Anna Henry Creasey Remembers Growing Up In Ellsworth

by Judy Stedman Calvert

Journal 4/11/83

What was North Terre Haute like in the 1910s and early 1920s? How did the young people entertain themselves? Life was much different from today in the small community.

Anna Henry Creasey came to North Terre Haute in 1910 at the age of four and has lived in Otter Creek Township since that time. She remembers many things about the small community of Ellsworth, as it was called then.

The Henrys—Dan and Laura and their children, Charles, William and Anna—first lived in the stucco house on the east side of Lafayette Road just south of the Otter Creek bridge. Later they lived on the northside of Park Avenue in the frame house west of the railroad tracks. The house is still standing today on property owned by Pat and Virginia Calvert.

Dan Henry was a coal miner and Laura was a midwife. They raised chickens and pigs and sold grapes and apples for extra money in the summer. Laura also made quilts.

The house on Park Avenue had four rooms downstairs

and three upstairs and was originally built as an apartment building for two families—one upstairs and one downstairs. There was even a double "bathroom" outside with a separate entrance for each family. The Henrys moved in and used the whole house.

The yard was much bigger then and went farther back to Otter Creek. Anna says the creek has washed away a lot of land over the years off the property. The children had a swing in one of the apple trees in the orchard and Mr. Henry made them a "flying Jenny" to play on. The "flying Jenny" was a merry-go-round type of plaything made by bolting a board across the top of a tree stump. The bolt was left loose enough to allow the board to twirl around in a circle and make a ride for the youngsters. They also played croquet frequently.

The house was heated with coal stoves and had a rag rug carpeting. A neighbor lady wove rags into strips on a loom and the strips were sewn together to form a rug the size of the room.

Each year straw from Smith's farm across the railroad tracks was put under the rug for insulation. By the next spring the straw was pulverized into dust and the rugs were taken up and new straw put down. The strips were taken apart and scrubbed on a washboard, sewn back together and put back on the floor for another season.

Coal was purchased at the LeComte Mine at the "east end" on Park Avenue. Each Saturday the ice man came and delivered ice for the family ice box. Saturdays were a special treat because

on that day Mrs. Henry had enough ice to make Jell-o.

Swimming in the creek was a favorite pastime of all the children in the community. It was clean and sandy and wide in most places. A little west of the Baptist church next door to the Henrys was a deep hole called the "the 18 foot hole," which everybody avoided. Boys often played in small boats in the creek when the water was high enough.

The creek bank was clear with a level landing and sand bars were behind the church and they frequently held baptisms there.

Across the street on the other side of Park Avenue was a large sandlot called "The Commons" where children played. The Ellsworth Paper Mill had been in a part of the area but had burned long before the Henrys moved to North Terre Haute. The Medicine Show always set up business on The Commons when it came to town.

"It was very exciting when the medicine show arrived," says Anna. "He always had music or a dancer and then gave his spiel. For \$1.00 you could buy a tonic that would cure anything!"

Several roadhouses or taverns were located in the area at that time. The Bungalow Inn was on the east side of the Rosedale Road just north of the mill dam bridge. It burned one New Years Eve when Anna was in high school. "We were at a Sunday School party at the home of Carl and Ruth Buzan that night," remembers Anna. We heard the fire wagons clanging and went out to see what was happening. Firemen had to come all the way from Terre Haute so the fire was started pretty good and the building couldn't be saved."

Other roadhouses were The Star, the Sunset Glow restaurant (which was a nice place), and the notorious Wisteria Gardens, a two story building next to where the post office is now. "I often walked to the Phillips home at the corner of Haythorne and Lafayette to play with Julia Emma Phillips and had strict orders to stay on the east side of the road until I was past the Wisteria Gardens," says Anna. "It was a wild place and supposedly prostitutes lived upstairs." The Osbornes later had a store there and then Englehart's Garage was on the site.

Ruth Smith, who was just a year older than Anna, lived across the tracks and had a pony and cart which she drove to Crabb's Store for groceries. Anna would ride with Ruth and hold the pony, Ramona, while Ruth was in the store. On Saturdays Anna frequently went to the Forest Park Mill (Markle's Mill) with Mrs. Watkins who lived north on Lafayette Road across the creek. She went to the mill for flour and corn meal.

New week—the Ellsworth School, Forest Park, and the Ku Klux Klan.



# Datebook

## January

- 3** Local radio station WAAC was sold to the Oak Ridge Boys and plans call for combining it with WPFR, purchased earlier by the same group.
- 4** Frank P. Kaperak selected County Commission president, despite a pending election recount. His victory over James E. Adams eventually was overturned.
- 16** Fire does \$60,000 damage to Lough Brothers Roofing and Siding, 1133 Lafayette Ave., a northside business.
- 31** Forty-eight warrants were issued for persons in a four-county drug raid in Vigo, Vermillion, Parke and Sullivan counties. It was the largest multi-county drug raid in the area's history.

## February

- 14** Smoke detectors, a sound evacuation plan, and flame retardant mattresses help save the lives of 21 inmates at the Clay County Jail after one inmate set fire to a mattress.
- 25** Sister Jeanne Knoerle announces plans to resign as president of St. Mary-of-the-Woods College, a position she filled for 10 years.

## March

- 1** Dr. R. Shirrell Rogers, 67, staff physician at Indiana State University and athletic team physician for many years, dies.
- 14** Indiana State University announces plans to spend \$1.3 million in a 10-year project to close out the central downtown campus. Plans include the construction of a new multi-purpose health professions and physical education and recreation facility, an addition to the men's physical education building and a new center for the performing arts.
- 16** Three persons — David T. Kirk, Ronald Winn and Dorothy Kirk, who was six-months pregnant, die in a fire at 1439 College Ave. It was later discovered by police that Winn died prior to the blaze.
- 17** Indiana State University's School of Business releases a controversial, 400-page study of economic characteristics and development problems

of five-county area.

- 18** Dr. Paul Johnson, 61, received a two-year prison sentence and was fined \$75,000 plus five years special parole and ordered to perform 1,500 hours of community service after being convicted on 47 counts of distributing or attempting to distribute controlled drugs.

## April

- 9** Mary R. Pennington, 66, former principal at West Terre Haute South Elementary School, West Terre Haute Central Elementary School, and Terre Haute's Cruft School, dies.
- 14** Zenith Radio Corp. announces it will close its 22-year-old facility in Paris, Ill., by the end of 1983, thus idling 600 workers.
- 15** Hills Department Stores, a subsidiary of SCOA Industries Inc., Columbus, Ohio, announces it will begin operations in the two former Woolco stores here.
- 16** Arnold L. McDonald, publisher of the Tribune-Star, announces the May 16 merger of the afternoon and morning newspapers.
- 23** Paul M. Messick, former Vigo Circuit and Terre Haute City Judge, dies.
- 26** Woodrow Wilson Junior High School's chess team finishes in the top 10 in the National Junior High School Tournament conducted in Terre Haute.
- 28** Terre Haute's City Council annexes 80 acres of land on Ladd Road north of U.S. 40 in East Glenn where International Minerals and Chemical will build an animal science and research center.
- 29** County Auditor W. Paul Newton paid \$2,865 and Frank Walker \$1,623 out of their own pockets to make up for cash shortages from 1981-82 mortgage-exemption funds; Clay Schools Superintendent C. David Osborne announces his resignation.

## May

- 1** Jason Manes of Lake Village and Diane Rappaport win men's and women's division of 12th annual Marathon Marathon. John Roscoe of South Bend and formerly of Terre Haute wins the 10,000 meters.

- 2** Applied Computing Devices Inc. announces plans to build an industrial park at Indiana 46 and Moyer Road; First Assembly of God church loses its steeple in strong winds.

- 4** Mayor P. Pete Chalos and Kirby Smith win the Democratic and Republican primary races and right to face each other for the city's top administrative post in the November election; the Wabash River reaches 19 feet, five feet above flood stage.

- 5** Sister Jeanne Knoerle says she will resign as president of St. Mary-of-the-Woods College at the end of the year, ending a 15-year tenure in that position; city, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development reach agreement on controversy surrounding ineligible subsidies.

- 8** Sister Barbara Doherty is elected president of St. Mary-of-the-Woods College; Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology wins the College Athletic conference all-sports trophy; Ron Felling, a native of Vigo County, quits as boys' basketball coach at Lawrenceville, Ill., High School. His teams won four state championships, the last two consecutively with unbeaten records.

- 9** Jack Hewitt speeds to victory in the 13th annual Tony Hulman Classic sprint-car race for U.S. Auto Club sprinters.

- 11** American Cablevision Co. asks Vigo County's permission to expand its services into Lost Creek and Honey Creek townships; William F. Blair, 67, Jesup, Ga., dies. He was an early aerobic pioneer and was among the first to pilot helicopters in the military.

- 13** St. Patrick School, a Catholic elementary school on the city's eastside, recognizes its 100th anniversary with a big celebration.

- 14** The Terre Haute Star ceases publication; the Terre Haute Tribune ceases publication.

- 16** The Tribune-Star debuts in the Wabash Valley. The new morning paper combines the morning Star and afternoon Tribune; Indiana State University wins the Missouri Valley Conference baseball championship at Wichita, Kan., and qualifies for the National Collegiate Athletic Association playoffs.

- 19** Herbert I. Lamb, 79, Terre Haute, well-known educator and community leader, dies.

- 20** International Minerals and Chemical Corp. announces expansion plans at East Glenn; William E. Barhnill, 38, a television weatherman, charged with two counts of child molesting; the Indiana Pacers lose a National Basketball Association coin flip and the right to draft Ralph Sampson of the University of Virginia.

- 21** Carlton Anderson of South Vigo High School wins the McMillan Award for being the best athlete in Vigo County high schools.

- 25** Grover C. Osborne retires as business manager of Plumbers and Steam Fitters Local 157 after 32 years; Susie Dewey quits puts final touches on last chapter of teaching English at Woodrow Wilson Junior High School. Her classroom career spanned 43 years.

- 29** Indiana State University eliminated from the National Collegiate Athletic Association baseball playoffs following two losses in Michigan.

- 30** L. Eric Bauer, 38, local attorney, juvenile referee and counsel for the Vigo County School Corp. and the Covered Bridge Special Education District, dies.

## June

- 3** Vigo County Commissioners propose to auction of H. Ralph Johnston Youth Center property; Robert S. Campbell, 74, Center Point, dies. He was Clay County Republican Party chairman since 1976.

- 5** Former Terre Hautean Tommy John, a member of the California Angels of the American League, pitches his 242nd victory, the most by any Hoosier in major-league history.

- 8** Vigo Circuit Judge Robert H. Brown rejects Tony Guin's attempt to withdraw guilty plea and rejects guilty plea in death of Rebecca Bopp Fuqua; Brian Dorsett of Indiana State University and formerly of North Vigo High School is drafted in the 10th round by the California Angels of the American League.

- 9** An additional four charges are filed against Barbara N. Daily in the "Gingerbread Man" case. Daily is ordered to undergo psychiatric tests in Chicago; City accepts bid of Venice, Fla., firm to



Water, water everywhere: Farmers could have used some of the spring rain during the summer drought



supply a dozen new buses for \$1,047,400.

**11** Harry O. Miller, 82, dies. He was among founders of Graham Grain Co.

**12** North Vigo wins second straight Indiana High School Athletic Association baseball regional title.

**14** Clinton City Council annexes 55 acres west of the city; Terre Haute City Controller Tharon Geckeler says city won't be able to pay utility bills until December.

**17** Indiana State University announces plans to turn parking lot into green entrance way to campus at Seventh and Cherry streets; Harry Hare, 48, dies. He was manager of Woolco Department Store, Plaza North Shopping Center.

**18** CBS/Sony Inc. brass, city, state celebrate birth of Digital Audio Disc Corp. with gala luncheon at County Club of Terre Haute.

**19** North Vigo wins Indiana High School Athletic Association baseball semistate championship, qualifying for the final four.

**20** The Tribune-Star Publishing Co. Inc. announces \$1 million facelift, including \$400,000 for new computer system.

**21** Edward J. Whalen, 77, dies. Was retired president of Moore-Langen Printing Co. and former circulation director for the Tribune-Star Publishing Co. Inc.

**24** John N. Phillips gets Seaboard Systems Railroad's President's Award for saving the lives of a local woman and her 3-year-old daughter from wheels of onrushing train.

**25** Matthew Felgenhauer moves into Wabash Valley hearts as family makes initial pleas for new liver for the 10-month-old Farmersburg boy; North Vigo advances to the Indiana High School Athletic Association baseball championship.

**26** North Vigo High School's baseball team welcomed to the city, but team fails to win state championship, losing 4-2 to Fort Wayne Northrop in title game.

**28** Robert L. Russell, 4, dies beneath wheels of garbage truck; "We will have the money to pay part of the bills," Mayor P. Pete Chalos says about negotiations with electric and water utilities supplying the city.

**30** Village Quarter, a \$50 million development near Indiana 46 and Poplar Street east of the city, is unveiled by James Spence and Associates; Freda Espelta retires after 33 years of service in local license branches.

## July

**5** Cindy Lou Mason, Linton, is found bludgeoned to death at a rural Greene County site.

**14** Local business community and interested citizens begin fund-raising campaign to build a clubhouse at Hulman Links golf course.

**24** A heat wave that produced temperatures in the high 90s for several consecutive days sends four persons to Vermillion County Hospital and two to Clay County Hospital.

**25** Matthew Felgenhauer dies at 4 p.m. at LeBonheur Children's Hospital, Memphis, Tenn. He suffered a



## Charged with murder

Terre Haute housepainter Larry W. Eyler has been charged with murder of a man believed to have been one of some 20 homosexual-related fatal stabbing victims in Indiana, Illinois and Kentucky. His arrest came in Waukegan, Ill. The 30-year-old Eyler, who was living in apartments in Terre Haute and Chicago at the time of his arrest, is under investigation with connections in the other murders by a special task force of the Indiana State Police.

heart attack earlier in the day. He waited 33 days for a liver donor that never came.

**27** Christopher D. Deckard and Michael W. Poling were taken into custody in San Francisco and charged with the brutal murder of Cindy Lou Mason, Linton.

## August

**3** Joe D. Pirtle, president and general manager of International Union of Operating Engineers Local 841, is indicted by a grand jury on eight counts of theft for using union trust funds for his personal gain.

**4** Krietenstein Post 104 defeated Columbus 3-2 to win the Advanced Babe Ruth League state championship.

**9** Dr. Paul Johnson surrenders to federal custody and later was found guilty on 47 counts of illegal distribution or attempting to distribute illegal drugs. He later was sentenced to 2 years in prison, fined \$75,000 and ordered to perform 1,500 hours of community service; Alliance for Growth and Progress is born. Its purpose is to unite community efforts to stimulate economic, industrial and business growth. Sister Jeanne Knoerle is named president.

**12** Jim Gallagher Jr. of Marion outduels his competition on the back nine of the last round to earn a one-shot victory in the Indiana Open Golf Tournament at Hulman Links.

**18** Dr. Khalil "Kelly" Wakim says he's discontinuing his medical practice after being raided by federal agents for dispensing drugs illegally.

**19** Bill Barnhill, 38, a television weatherman, is convicted of child molestation after only 30 minutes of jury deliberation.

**23** Christopher Lewis and George E. Rogers, both of Terre Haute, are among 22 persons indicted for selling parts of protected wildlife; Dr. El Sa'd El-Issa is awarded \$400,000 in damages after filing suit against Hospital Corporation of America and Terre Haute Regional Hospital.

## September

**1** Indiana's new drunk driving law goes into effect. The law lowers the allowable amount of alcohol content in the blood and adds stiffer penalties.

**7** Ousted labor leader Joe D. Pirtle, Sullivan, whose son's home was riddled by gunfire, claimed union reprisals prompted the shooting.

**10** North rallies to beat South 28-21 in local prep football; County council cuts \$300,000 from budget, but gives itself and other county office holders pay raises.

**15** Two die in when two freight trains collide near Sullivan. Engineer and brakeman suspected of drinking on job.

**20** About 450 Democratic faithfuls honor John Haley at a local dinner; William S. Buckley appeared for a lecture at Hulman Center.

**21** Investigation in Sullivan train wreck revealed "substantial crew failure"; Hills Department Store opened two stores in Terre Haute, at former Woolco locations.

**22** TH City Council approves application for Urban Enterprise Zone selection by state.

**27** Harrison Township tax rate slashed 81 cents by Vigo Co. Tax Adjustment Board.

**29** Jack McCullough's farm near Center Point witnesses cattle herd being destroyed by "mysterious illness"; Larry Bird signs \$15 million 7-year pact with the Boston Celtics.

**30** Jonathan Mac Phillips awarded Carnegie Hero Medal for saving lives of Sherry McCracken and her 5-year-old daughter at local railroad crossing.

## October

**3** Oak Ridge Boys entertain about 8,000 fans at Hulman Center for benefit of Wabash Valley Alliance for Growth and Progress.

**5** Patrick J. Barder, executive director of the TH Housing Authority, stands by controversial letter to tenants of certain projects ordering them to clean house and pay rent ... or get out.

**10** Ethrel Bumen found dead in burned mobile home located just south of Margaret Avenue behind Ramada Inn. Investigation later reveals she died from a gunshot wound to the head.

**12** Barbara Dailey receives jury acquitted of charges of making telephone threats in the "Gingerbread man case".

**19** Ground broken for \$1 million telecommunications project in Aleph Park. Joint venture between Applied Computing Devices and Rose-Hulman Institute, 106-acre technology and business campus.

**20** Dr. Khalil "Kelly" Wakim, who surrendered his medical license to avoid prosecution for allegedly dispensing drugs, asks for a license reinstatement.

**29** Terre Haute resident Larry Eyler is jailed in Waukegan, Ill., as a suspect for murder of one person thought to be connected with gay-related series of murders.

## November

**6** All signs point to mild winter, Old Farmers Almanac says; Becker's Jewelry to close its downtown store after 54 years.

**9** Chalos wins easily over Smith with 74 percent of the vote, 13,321 to 4,699; Terre Haute Democrats win seven of nine City Council seats; Democrats sweep West Terre Haute Town Board. Democrats also win area city halls: Norval Pickett in Brazil, Jimmie Wright in Linton, Dominic

Natale in Clinton and Herman Smith in Sullivan.

**11** Vigo County Coroner to call inquest into death of Ethrel Bumen, shot Oct. 8 in her mobile home, which then was set on fire.

**13** Author Studs Terkel accepts Eugene V. Debs award in ceremony in Terre Haute, claims he humbled by the occasion.

**16** United Way of Wabash Valley sets record in 1983 fund drive, raising \$1,082,107 in just two months. Eston "Bud" Perry was general chairman.

**18** Terre Haute residents face 86-cent per \$100 valuation tax increase; Terre Haute businesses and government combine efforts to secure enterprise zone from state; Great Dane in Brazil announces \$15 million expansion that will create 100 new jobs by end of 1984.

**23** Tony Guin found guilty of murdering Rebecca Bopp Fuqua.

**27** ISU Sycamores beat Eastern Illinois 16-13 in overtime to advance in NCAA Division I-AA playoffs.

**30** Mary Hulman and Terre Haute First National Bank combine to contribute \$170,000 to complete fund-raising for Hulman Links Clubhouse.

## December

**4** ISU's Cinderella football season ends with 23-7 loss to Southern Illinois. eventual division I-AA champion.

**6** Terre Haute denied much-ballyhooed enterprise zone designation by state. city claims action is politically motivated.

**9** Terre Haute City Council approves rezoning for new IMC facility near East Glenn and awards new contract to American Cablevision Inc.

**14** Chalos ends rampant speculation and announces that he will join the Democratic race for the governor's office.

**17** Fischer Auto Supply storage area catches fire, sending thick smoke into the downtown sky.

**20** Arctic air invades Wabash Valley, dropping temperatures to nearly 10 below.

**21** Vigo County Schools teachers ratify new contract, giving them 6.43 percent across-the-board raises.

**22** Gov. Orr's Task Force on Marble Hill recommends that the nuclear power plant not be finished.

**25** If people were indoors they had a Merry Christmas as the temperature plummeted to a minus 12, making it the coldest Christmas ever. Water pipes froze throughout the area, causing numerous hardships, and firefighters fought several fires in sub-zero weather.



## Happy homeowner

Rosemarie Ward shows pride in her neighborhood following the beautification of her home and yard. She had help on the project by the youth group from Memorial United Methodist Church.

## Photo credits:

Tribune-Star staff photographers Bob Poynter, Randy Prophet, Jim Avelis and Paul Hightower contributed their artwork for Topic '83. The ISU color football photography is courtesy of the ISU athletic department.



# Vans? Ghetto blasters?

Don't let the language baffle you because 'Joe College' is doing his own thing

By Carol Swearingen

Tribune-Star Assistant Living Editor

Is it fashion, is it style — or is it just a fad?  
And who decides what stays and what goes?  
Teens ... that's who.

"It" can be a tiger, alligator, swan, unicorn, horse, turtle ... you name it, they got it embossed, stenciled, embroidered, printed and sewn on anything and everything from top to bottom.

According to some unknown authority the economy of the country rises and falls with the hemlines. But don't try to figure out the future by using the current teen-age look. Anything goes ... most everyone does "his own thing."

Valley is out, preppy is holding it's own, punk is modified, "Joe College" is being reincarnated and the rugged outdoor look is on it's way indoors.

But despite the differences of opinion on style, North, South and West Vigo high school students Amy Sampson, Larry Levine, Kris Ghosh and Debbie Robinson agree: anything goes.

Amy said tunes can still be heard coming from "ghetto blasters," but not on the school's time.

"Prep is always in," she commented. "Some girls are wearing mini-skirts, but now it's cord shorts with knee-highs, argyle sweaters and penny loafers. Shetland sweaters and silk ties are big."

Sweatshirts, ala Flashdance style, also top the ever-present jean. "Some kids buy sweatshirts and cut the neckline and sleeves to suit themselves," she added. Bright, shiny big earrings finish the look.

Girls have their hair cut short to the ear and longer in the back. "Some of the guys have a punk style."

Stripped jeans, worn with boots, are becoming popular. "Kids wear what their friends wear," Amy said. "If they like it."

Larry likes the rugged clothes. "The straight-leg Levi with the jean jacket and the boots. The down-to-earth look."

"Guys are also wearing shirts with the English flag colors. And 'vans' (shoes) are really popular." Vans are canvas loafers with different designs, such as a checkerboard pattern. "Really wild."

The South Vigo student said some kids go with what's in. "And others wear what they want. They don't follow fads or trends."

Larry believes another trend that found its way to this area is the "West Coast style." "The music, surfer haircut and sun glasses."

"Now, it's 'Joe College' with the sweaters."

Larry added some fads originate on the East Coast. "Whatever it may be, some kids wear it."

One of the big items to hit the 1984 fashion scene will

be shirts designed with flags of different countries, according to Larry. "They will be worn with white baggies and a pair of vans ... and no socks."

Larry said hair styles continue to be short on top and sides and long in the back.

"Fads come and go, just like kids waiting at a bus stop. People find what they like and what suits their personality."

Kris agrees with Larry on current fashion trends and added dress shirts, oxford shirts, dress cords and jeans, slacks and loafers to his list for the well-dressed Joe College look. "I see a lot of bright colors," the South Vigo student added.

"Dressing out for school" is the name of the game.

"A fad may be a fad for a while and if you get enough people to wear it, it becomes fashion," Kris explained.

Kris thinks video games will get stronger in '84. "They will get more complex due to the home computers. "With cartridges costing from 30 to 40 bucks, they're going to have to do more than bang, bang and pow, pow."



If it feels comfortable and it's not embarrassing to you, then wear it. Hawaiian shirts were "in" at West Vigo for a while, radios with headsets always seem to be "cool" and if you play video games, your in the right crowd.

At West Vigo, Debbie Robinson said girls are wearing baggie jeans, designer shirts with turned-up collars, moccasins in red, blue or white, or cowboy-style boots.

"The layered look is popular, also ruffled shirts with puffy sleeves," she added. "The guys like boat shoes."

Big, shiny earrings in different colors are a must for many of the girls. "Sweatshirts, with sleeves and neckline cut out, are worn over long-john shirts for a layered effect," Debbie added. "And, a lot of the girls like the argyle sleeveless sweater vests."

But all this high-fashion transition takes dough. And Mom and Dad get tired of being hit up for vans — the wheelless variety.

So its off to the drudgery of part-time jobs in fast-food restaurants, bookstores, hospitals, department stores, gas stations and grocery stores to earn money for dates, clothes and gas.

"Having your own money allows more freedom," Larry said.



# Two new books retell Terre Haute history

Two new books on Terre Haute history are destined for a prominent spot on everyone's bookshelves.

A pictorial book backed by the local historical society will feature the memorable photos of Ken Martin from his repository of more than a half a million negatives from 50 years.

A second book, combining Salty Seamon artwork, incisive text, and many illustrations, is sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce. Dorothy Clark wrote the text.

The sudden boom in interest in local history prompted the two projects. Terre Haute seems to be groping for a sense of pride during these very difficult economic times.

Throughout its long history, Terre Haute has been many things: a bustling river port; a mid-western crossroads for rail traffic that transported coal, food, and

industrial products from the Wabash Valley; a notorious "Sin City" with a thriving trade in gambling and prostitution; a Hoosier "Tammany Hall"; and a stable and quiet middle-American town. Terre Haute has numbered among its native sons such notables as Eugene V. Debs, the socialist reformer and presidential candidate; Theodore Dreiser, the controversial novelist, and Paul Dresser, his older brother, writer of the popular song "On the Banks of the Wabash"; Max Ehrmann, the playwright and essayist; and such baseball greats as Mordecai (Three-Finger) Brown, Vic Aldridge, and Art Nehf. Its captains of industry have included Chapman S. Root, who designed the Coca-Cola bottle and amassed a multi-million-dollar fortune, and Tony Hulman, Jr., owner of the Indianapolis Motor Speedway.

*On the Banks of the Wabash* is a remarkable pictorial chronicle of an American city with a vital and colorful heritage. The photographs included come mainly from the collections of the Vigo County Historical Society and Martin's Photo Shop, a family-

owned photography studio that operated in Terre Haute from 1906 to 1976. Until recently, Terre Haute newspapers did not employ staff photographers, relying instead on the Martin studio to provide all newsworthy pictures. As a result, the Martin Photo

Shop is the repository of around a million negatives and contact prints that depict the full range of life in Terre Haute -- the best of which are the basis for this sumptuous volume.

The Vigo County Historical Society proudly announces the publication of a forthcoming book, *On the Banks of the Wabash, a Photograph Album of Greater Terre Haute, 1900-1950*, to be released by Indiana University Press in March 1983 in clothbound and paperback editions.

Edited by Dorothy W. Jerse, Judith S. Calvert, and Kenneth W. Martin, the 128-page book represents a project begun in 1980 as a spinoff of the successful "Year of the Historic Photograph" project sponsored by the Society in 1979-80.

Photography Editor Kenneth Martin carried on the work of his father, Frank Martin, the founder of Martin's Photo Shop. He owned the

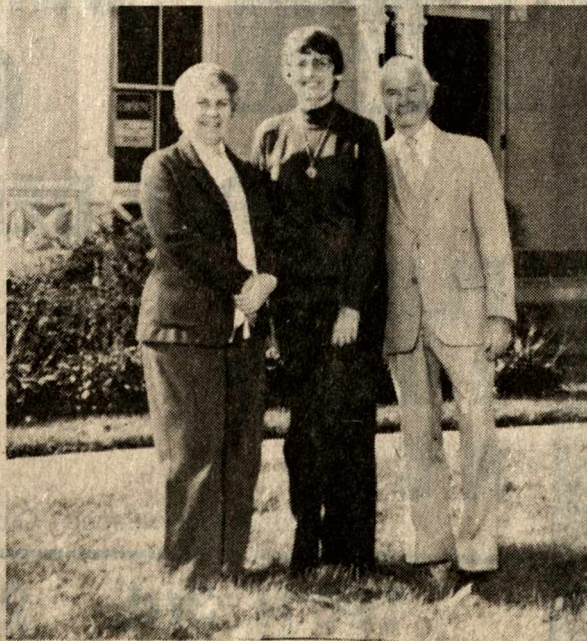
studio until his retirement in 1976. Martin, associated with the shop for 52 years, took most of the photos seen in the familiar Sunday Rotogravure Section of the Tribune-Star.

Dorothy Jerse served as curator of the Historical Museum of the Wabash Valley for eight years. She recently became executive director of the YWCA.

Judith Calvert is the librarian for the Vigo County Historical Society.

With great pleasure, that the Terre Haute Area Chamber of Commerce announced that a beautifully illustrated history of Terre Haute and Vigo County. An illustrated history, *Terre Haute: on the Banks of the Wabash* is the latest in a long distinguished series on the history of important cities in the United States published by Windsor Publications.

Cont. on page 5



Judy Calvert, left, Dorothy Jerse and photographer Ken Martin teamed up to produce a new pictorial history of Terre Haute to be published in March.

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**Continued from page 1**

The author is Dorothy Clark, distinguished writer and historian. Omer "Salty" Seamon, renowned artist, will also be contributing his talents to the project.

*On the Banks of the Wabash* will be a deluxe, hardbound book providing a fascinating narrative describing the people and events which have shaped Terre Haute and Vigo County. It will provide an excellent basis for understanding our community and will contain approximately 200 illustrations,

With her "trusty IBM" typewriter, Dorothy Clark sought to write an overview of local history rather than a chronological account.

The book, which will be some 240 pages, includes a full-color section highlighting 20 of Seamon's finest renderings.

Dorothy commented that great men envisioned how the city should develop and employed their wealth to make sure it turned

out that way. They succeeded. Over time, though, the community became a melting pot for many minorities. Then the 1935 general strike had long-lasting effects on the area.

"We have picked out the things which make Terre Haute unique," Mrs. Clark said.

## Main Street



Richard Tuttle, who retired from The Tribune-Star in 1983, is a walking compendium of Terre Haute's history.

By Richard C. Tuttle  
Assistant Editor Emeritus

# 'District' had quite a reputation

JAN 24 1985

Terre Haute's west side, the "district," had a nation wide reputation — not good — but a reputation.

It developed naturally over the decades from the early river days, through coal mining and the railroads. The Courthouse, business firms, small industry and the river front were concentrated on the west side. River workers, barge men, dock workers were generally rather rough and tough — they had to be as this was a hard life.

Many were unmarried or their families lived in other towns along the river or Wabash and Erie Canal. Barges seldom moved at night, so the evening was spent in the taverns near the river front and visiting the "district."

By the 1920s, a few smaller industries were still located on the river and there were some business firms in the area, but the town had moved east, rather than north and south along Market, or Third Street. The railroads and coal mines were operating "full steam," Terre Haute being a division point for the railroads. The district continued to flourish, but its high-flying days were nearing a close.

Churches were demanding the district be closed, and citizens and civic organizations were joining the effort. About the time of the depression, 1930, police started making "token" arrests of the madames and girls in the houses to appease those making demands. Girls no longer sat on porches soliciting their trade; curtains were closed and some houses actually closed. Now and then restrictions were relaxed, curtains were raised, and fingers tapped on the windows as men passed.

Two rather mysterious figures were located in the west side — Hosie Vice and Hominey Godsey. They resided in the district, did not operate a tavern or house, but seemed to demand and get the respect and attention of everyone in the area. Vice lived at Second and Eagle streets, in a luxurious upstairs apartment.

Jack Hines was the political power, delivering the district, the larger part of a precinct in the old Sixth Ward, at every election. He owned several pieces of property in the area, and often sold them on contract to madames, reclaiming them when payments weren't met.

A small fiesty man, Shorty Hollywood, was another well-known figure on the west side. In later years, immediately before World War II, Hollywood had a second-floor hotel near Fourth and Cherry, now the Schultz Store parking lot. He had been in the tavern business for a while.

Girls came, spent a few weeks or months even years, then moved to other towns. Jackie and Peggy were madames, usually with only one girl in a small house on "the line."

The major west side figures still remain Madame Brown; Mary Ann and Mickey Meharry; Dorothy, Buster and Kate Clark; Nell and Bruiser Bandy; Tom and Ruth Brady; and Johnny Boyd.

The "red light district," the "line," the west side — was a part of Terre Haute's growing up, just as in many other towns. After more than a century to reach maturity, and with complicating conditions, the houses were closed and the district spread over town. This occurred about 1944, during World War II, when the government asked Mayor Vern McMillan to eliminate the district because of armed forces training at ISU, Rose Poly and DePauw. An era had passed.

Community Affairs File

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Ts FEB 3 1985

# Booze *History (TTH)* battle failed

Community Affairs File  
**Mayor Hook  
unable to dry  
up drinking**

**EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the last  
of three articles on early Terre  
Haute leader James Hook.**

**By Lois Harris**  
*Vigo County Public Library*

During the first half of the summer of 1855, the James Hook administration's enforcement of the Indiana Liquor Law was egalitarian with a vengeance. Any benefit of a doubt went to the law rather than to the individual.

When physician/druggist Dr. Allen Pence was arraigned before the mayor on a charge of "having sold drugged liquors, contrary to the Statute," the city was understanding but firm. "We have no idea that Dr. P. intended to violate the Law, but the Law is plain, and men should be careful that they do not tread on doubtful ground."

Dr. Pence made "little or no defence at the trial, thinking it entirely useless, as the article he sold contained so much drugs that it was almost impossible to take more than two spoonsful at one time, and could not be used as a beverage. Besides, it was his usual prescription for the disease he was treating."

(Pence was exonerated. One of the city's "enterprising and go-ahead citizens," he was elected alderman by the Democrats in 1858, and by the Republicans in 1862; city commissioner in 1872. Apparently his skirmish with the law did not interfere with his close association with Hook.

(Historian Gookins records that on Jan. 1, 1873, Mrs. Anna Stewart gave her first seance at Pence's block. She was then under the protection and control of a committee composed of Pence, Hook and Samuel Conner.)

In another case, F. T. Hulman had some liquor in his possession seized. At his trial he was acquitted. But he sued the city for the return of his property. A week later in the City of Terre Haute vs. two barrels and 10 kegs of liquor, judgment was rendered for the defendant. It was ordered that the liquor be returned to Hulman.

It was not these skirmishes with his constituents, however, that stopped the zealous Hook. A test case involving an Indianapolis saloon owner brought a declaration that the prohibitory law was unconstitutional. The arrested violator of the law was released. In November, the Supreme Court held the law to be unconstitutional.

Thus, after only a few months, Terre Haute's first experiment with prohibition ended. Hook had done his work well. He had cleaned out all the liquor shops, and it was later said of his action that this was the only instance in the record of the city that the liquor law was enforced to the letter.

The saloon keepers, who were quickly back in business, sued Hook for damages, and judgments amounting to \$1,200 were secured against his property. This crisis in Hook's life was resolved when the state legislature stepped in, imposing payment on all counties in which the law had been enforced.

In spite of setbacks during his mayoralty, Hook lived a long, fruitful life. Although after 1856 he never again held high public office, he remained active in the community until shortly before his death in 1895. Only three of his eight children outlived him.

Before his death, the press released a balanced assessment of his character:

"In tendency and quality of mind Mr. Hook has always been radical and progressive on all leading ideas of reform — anti-slavery, educational, social and theological. He is not 'orthodox' on any of these subjects, nor does he care to be. He takes no pains to conceal his views, or to conciliate the opinion of men respecting them. He considers it his right to be a free thinker on all subjects, and if people do not like it they can dislike it — it makes little difference to him. With his meager chances for an early education he has developed into a man of more than ordinary intelligence. He was always a close observer, a reader and student. He is a man of strong self determination and reasoning power and of strict integrity of character.

"While thousands of his fellow citizens disagree with him on many an old subject, none of them are afraid to take him at his word or trust him implicitly in a business transaction."

A tribute to Hook at the time of his death recalled his efforts on behalf of free public education: "To the energy of Mr. Hook and his associates we are indebted for the magnificent public school system we have today, for by hard work they laid the foundation stone for the present-day system. The prejudice against it gradually gave way."

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## Main Street



Richard Tuttle, who retired from The Tribune-Star in 1983, is a walking compendium of Terre Haute's history.

By Richard C. Tuttle  
Assistant Editor Emeritus

# District has has had its troubles too

Reviewing our political history from time to time may eventually lead to understanding the political process and encourage election laws that are fair, exact, easily understood and easily administered. The Indiana 8th District is currently involved in an election hassle which largely hinges on administration and recognition of the election laws.

The district in which Vigo County is located, and has been since 1816, has undoubtedly had similar troubles over the years. Certainly elections in the county have been questioned from time to time. So we continue with the recognition of the men and women who have served the district.

A Democrat attorney from Rockville served in Congress from 1843-45, and served the remainder of the term of Sen. Jesse D. Bright from 1862-63, who was expelled from Congress. The Parke County resident was governor of Indiana from 1849-57, a two-term governor who was in his first term when the constitution was written, so could therefore be elected under the new constitution. He was envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary to Prussia in 1865 until his death in 1867.

Edward McGaughey, a member of the Whig political party and attorney from Greencastle, served in the Congress from 1845-47 and 1849-51. He was nominated governor of the Minnesota Territory, but was not confirmed by the Senate.

Another Rockville Democrat, but a farmer, served from 1851-55 and 1857-61. Prior to that time he was Parke County Sheriff from 1830-33.

A Republican attorney from Terre Haute, Harvey Scott, was in Congress from 1855-57. He later served as Vigo County Circuit Judge from 1881-84.

Daniel Vorhees, a Democrat from Terre Haute, and recognized over a broad area as an orator, served the district from 1861-66 and 1869-73. He also was elected as Indiana's U.S. Senator from 1877-97. He was known as the "Tall Sycamore of the Wabash."

A Clinton attorney and a Republican, served in congress from 1866-69. He was appointed surveyor general of Montana in 1869, serving until his death in 1871. Mount Washburn in Montana is named for him. In 1870 he headed an expedition to find the headwaters of the Yellowstone River and discovered what is now known as Yellowstone Park.

Morton Hunter, a Bloomington attorney, and a Republican, served from 1867-69 and 1873-79. He was a member of the state legislature in 1858. Abraham Hostetler, a Democrat from Bedford, served the district from 1879-81. The former state senator was a blacksmith and farmer.

A Republican attorney from Crawfordsville, Robert B.F. Peirce, was in Congress from 1881-83. Prior to that time he had been Montgomery County prosecuting attorney from 1870-74.

A Terre Haute attorney and Democrat, John Lamb, served from 1883-85. He was then named U.S. District Attorney and served from 1885-86. James Johnston, a Rockville attorney and a Republican, sat in Congress from 1885-89. Johnston had been state senator from 1874-78, and in 1893 was commander of the Grand Army of the Republic, Department of Indiana.

Elijah Brookshire, a Democrat and attorney, served from 1889-95. He had been a Montgomery County school teacher from 1879-82.

Another Terre Hautean, George Faris, a Republican attorney, served from 1895-1901.

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build city

# Malooleys, Nassers, Kaufmans helped

History (xH)

Ts MAR 14 1985 Community Affairs File

Business, financial, commercial and professional residents along Wabash Avenue were well known along Main Street, and the side streets and Ohio and Cherry. These men and women were familiar outside their places of business, and were concerned citizens about the community in which they lived.

Years ago, Jack Steele, Jim Jenkins and Ted Clerk, all of Tune Brother were greeted by many as they walked to the bank or to lunch. Mr. Balch of Levi Dry Goods store, was familiar to many. John Bigwood was well known inside and outside Bigwood's Jewelry.

Abe Kaufman, who ran the Fountain Theater, was active in Kiwanis and the Chamber of Commerce. About this time, young Bob Schultz was taking over the

management of Schultz Department store, and Ed Smith the Smith Departmentstore. Ben and Jan Van Borsum, father and son, ran the Savoy Theater and claimed jurisdiction in the block between Fourth and Fifth streets. Jim Quinlan was in charge of Quinlan's Feed store in the same block.

Julian Silverstein and Ed Chaskin operated Silverstein Furniture, but soon moved to take over Anchor Furniture between Third and Fourth streets. Bill Baugh ran Smith Hardware, with his son, Richard, as right-hand man. Morris Lebowitz was on the north side of Main Street, near Third. Dick Kress had a fish market on the north side, but with repeal changed the business to a tavern.

Near Fifth Street, Pentecost and



## Main Street.

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By Richard C. Tuttle  
Assistant Editor Emeritus

Craft Hardware was operated by Don O'Rear and his wife. The store had an entrance on Wabash, second door from the corner, and was L-shaped with a

second entrance on South Fifth. Part of the basement was a sales room. The store was the forerunner of Ace Hardware. Joe Soloman had a furniture store at 228 Wabash Ave., and later moved it to Fifth and Main streets.

Dr. James L. Fortune's offices were at Third and Main streets over Shandy's Drug Store. He was the county physician, active in Zorah Shrine and an avid fisherman. The doctors Hoover, father and son, had offices on North Third. Dr. Elliott, veterinarian for St. Mary-of-the-Woods when a large herd of milk cows were part of the farm operation, and the students brought their riding horses, lived in the Indois Hotel.

Woody Nasser's father had a grocery store near Second Street, as did the father of Charley, George and Mose Kassis. Hub Dreiman and his wife owned the tavern in the Indois. Joe Dreher owned the barber shop in the block, and was sheriff four terms, county auditor and county commissioner.

Jim Hollis, his brother and sister, operated Terre Haute Monument Co., Bauermeister Co., wholesale grocers and beer distributor, were located at First Street. Mr. and Mrs. Bauermeister owned and operated the firm, and their three children, Charles, Mary Jane and Carl were involved. The canned goods were "Jane Justice" brand.

At this time, the Saratoga had not located at Fifth and Main streets, but it was just a few years later Joe Malooley, and brothers Asa and Abe, started the business.

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better question

T s MAR 17 1985

# Who was first? First at what is the

Clark Dorothy + History File (A.H.)

It has never been entirely safe to state that anything or anybody was ever the first. Disputes raged over who was the first white child born in a township or a county, the first bridge, road, school, church, teacher, preacher, coal mine. The list goes on and on.

But who would have believed there would be a controversy over the first carriage brought to Terre Haute? The statement that the first carriage was brought here by Lucius H. Scott was immediately corrected by saying that William C. Linton brought the first carriage in 1827.

It was in 1873 that these carriages were proven to be not the first but the second and third, maybe. George B. Richardson told of arriving at Fort Harrison in 1816 when he was only 12. He recalled, "I have a distinct recollection of a fine carriage with calash top, and silver mounted harness to match, which my father, Joseph Richardson, brought to this country in June 1816, 11 years before Linton's carriage arrived. It was used frequently by the officers of

## Historically speaking



Clark is Vigo County's official historian and formerly worked for The Terre Haute Tribune.

By Dorothy Clark  
Special to The Tribune-Star

the fort and their ladies in taking rides over the smooth level prairie, with neither fences nor roads to disturb their course.

"On one occasion in attempting to cross Honey Creek (no road work had been done yet) the carriage capsized in the creek. The top was broken in pieces, and the occupants got a good wetting. The carriage was never repaired, as there were no mechanics here at that time capable of making such repairs. This carriage was manufactured in

Connecticut, brought out to western New York to Geneseo, and bought there by my father. It was taken over the Allegheny mountains to the headwaters of the Allegheny river and brought down that stream and down the Ohio to the mouth of the Wabash, up that stream to the old Fort Harrison in our family emigrant boat built at Olean, N.Y., coming the whole distance by water, starting May first, arriving on the 4th of July 1816, with the so-called Markle Party."

There was a reunion on June 12, 1866, to celebrate the landing, 50 years before, of the first boatload of emigrants on or near what is now Terre Haute with a view to permanent settlement in the Wabash Valley. The old settlers met at the home of Judge R. H. Wedding, about two miles east of the city on the National Road.

On what might be called a family boat, the group was under the command of Capt. Daniel Stringham, Major John Bond, formerly of Terre Haute, and Colonel Webb who afterwards set-

tled on Gill's Prairie, Sullivan County, Ind.

They landed first at Indian Orchard, or Gordon's Bend, on the east bank of the river, about where the Pillsbury Plant is now. This first boatload in the Markle group chose to land June 12 instead of making a grand entrance July 4.

Of these three families, five survivors were present for the reunion. They were Zebina C. Hovey's, wife of Bloomington, Iowa; Mrs. Judge Wedding and Mrs. Gilkey, living near Crawfordsville; all the children of Capt. Stringham; and Mrs. Jones of Fayette Township with Mrs. Johnson, her neighbor, both daughters of Major Bond. They entertained each other by telling what they remembered about the voyage and showing relics brought from "York State."

This writer has tried to ferret out other "famous firsts" in this area. The first free delivery of goods by a wheeled vehicle was established in the early 1860s by Edsall & McDougal Dry Goods merchants at the southwest corner of Fourth and

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Main Streets. A small two-wheeled cart, with a box behind the seat, a tiny white pony drawing it, and an 8-year-old boy driving it was a sign of the times in Terre Haute.

In the early days local grocers did not sell fresh vegetables, fruits or berries. People raised their own or bought them at the Market House or from wagons. About 1874 Lou Brothers started the first Green Grocery at the northwest corner of Sixth and Ohio Streets. Immediately the grocers put in stocks of green things.

Some claim that James Davis, grocer on the south side of Main Street, near Third Street, started his grocery wagon before Edsall & McDougal started their little cart, but this is another little historical mystery. At any rate, Davis started the first grocery wagon.

The first mayor of the town of Terre Haute was Elijah Tillotson (1791-1857) who was elected May 10 and resigned Oct. 1, 1838. He was buried in Woodlawn Cemetery.

He is not to be confused with the first mayor of the city of Terre Haute, William K. Edwards. He was elected May 30, 1853, following the incorporation of Terre Haute as a city in April.

The first postmaster of Fort Harrison was Curtis Gilbert. He is not to be confused with John M. Coleman who was the first postmaster at Terre Haute. The first census was taken by Charles T. Noble in 1829 and was not an official federal nose count.

Research shows that the first chewing gum was commercially sold in 1848 in the United States by John B. Curtis of Bangor, Maine. That was a sad day in the minds of many. The next year, 1849, the safety pin was patented.

As for the first doctor, lawyer, merchant, chief — they were Dr. Charles B. Modesitt, Nathaniel Huntington (at least he opened the first law office here), L. H. Scott opened the first store Jan. 1, 1818, and Melville D. Topping was the first fire chief in 1847.



History (K-114)

Community Affairs File

# Local history has a niche for the positive thinkers

Ts MAR 18 1985

There are some who see no value in history, or in people who made history — but history is merely a recording of what people did in building a community, state or nation. There is a need to identify with what happened to build a foundation, a wall, a road — to establish a philosophy — all of which eventually became our heritage, where we live and what we are.

For example, in Terre Haute we can identify with Eugene V. Debs whose socialist beliefs led to prison, to establishing and nurturing labor unions — all of which is part of the web of history. He may even be considered a conservative now.

Another would be Claude Bowers, a Democrat of national note who was named an ambassador to Chile. Col. Dick Thompson was also a political figure, and Secretary of the Navy. Of course the Dreiser or Dresser brothers, Theodore and Paul, were famous for entirely different reasons — literature and music — but who can say one or the other contributed more to the enrichment of our culture.

Many can identify with C.J. Root, industrialist, whose support of the Boys' Club over the years assured its place in the lives of Terre Haute and area youth. Also, we can identify with George Carroll, superintendent of Terre Haute schools at one time, and later vice president of Merchants National Bank. Also with John Thompson of Indiana State Bank, Nate Filbeck and Bill Cahill of Terre Haute Savings Bank, W.N. Cox and John Cleary of Terre Haute First National Bank.

In the field of education there would be Dr. Donald B. Prentice, Herman Moench and Dr. Sam Hulbert of Rose-Hulman; Dr. Ralph Tirey, Dr. Alan Rankin and Dr. Richard Landini of Indiana State; and Dr. Jeanne Knoerle of St. Mary-of-the-Woods. C. Huston Isaacs was an instrumental force in establishing Indiana Vocational College, both at the state level and a satellite campus here. In this group are also countless professors and teachers from kindergarten through college.

We might also identify with W.H. Paige Sr., Herb Leach, Horace Tune, John Bigwood, George Felstein, Vern McMillan, Carl Wolf, Bill Cheney, Otto Hornung, Ray Hahn, W.H. Clark, Mr. Berkowitz, Mr. Silvers, Mr. Wolfe of Jame-

## Main Street



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By Richard C. Tuttle  
Assistant Editor Emeritus

Wolfe, Edna Henry, Bill Bough, Charles Van Houtin, Miss May, Con Herber, Charles King, Julian Silverstein, Patsy Mahoney, Carl Riggs, Larry Turner, Eddie Chaskin, Rudy Shonfield, Salo Levite, Bill Mayback, Jack Steele, Ben Becker and hundreds of other merchants who contributed to the community as a retail and wholesale center.

Ben Blumberg was a moving force in promoting Terre Haute, seeking improvements and supporting efforts to enlarge its industrial and business climate. Tony Hulman made possible many improvements — such as Hulman Airport, Early Wheels, Hulman Civic Center, and contributions to the Historical Museum, and countless social and youth agencies. In the media there would be Bill Cronin, Jim Benham, Joe Higgins, Bill Behrman, Ferrall Rippetoe, Larry Sawyer, A.D. White, Bob Nesbit, N.C. Williams and Lou Keifer.

We need not identify with those who may have been notorious, for various nefarious and illegal reasons — this is negative thinking and attitude. Practically no politicians have been mentioned — for a reason — there are few worthy of listing. In the labor field I can recall Virgil Morris, Lou Austin, Charles Bickel, Grover Osborne and Duke Soucie, although he may have been wrong in his efforts in many instances, he supported progressive programs.

Where do you fit? There's a niche for every man and woman who think positively, who have positive attitudes.

Community Affairs File

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# remembering Past civic, business leaders are worth

1 s. MAR 21 1985

There is a reason for recalling many of the men and women who were familiar to hundreds along Main Street and its environs. These are the men and women who helped build Terre Haute, who took hours of endeavor and their money working for Terre Haute — it growth and improvement. These are the men and women who helped develop a sound base, a positive attitude through support of the positive factors.

Several have been mentioned and we'll list several more this week. The predecessor of the Terre Haute Area Chamber of Commerce was the Commercial Club. One of its early presidents was Adolph Herz of the Herz Store. The club not only assisted with community projects, but held several social events each year, one being a picnic in Forrest Park at North Terre Haute. A special train took the

members to the park, and brought them home in the evening.

Charley Blanford managed the Security Loan office near Fifth and Main. A few doors west was the Showers Department Store, operated during its last years by Ralph Showers.

There were two Army/Navy surplus stores, founded after World War I, over the county. There was one at 228-30 Wabash Avenue, and the second at 300 Wabash Ave. Fred Wampler worked in one of them while going to Indiana State. After these stores closed, Milt and Sid Levin opened the Corner Furniture Store at 300 Wabash Ave.

Gil Leonard, Civil Defense director here for many years, had a furniture store on Main Street. Jake Hulman's clothing store was across the street.

Wabash-Federal Building and Loan was located at Sixth street and Wabash



## Main Street

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**By Richard C. Tuttle**  
*Assistant Editor Emeritus*

Ave., managed by Ross Harriott for many years, then Arch Dunbar. Fred Kramer worked in the office for many years. Ten Pins was located across the

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street, in the basement. On North Sixth Street, the LaSalle Shop, exclusive women's wear, was operated by Charles Van Houtin and Edna Henry. Next door was Nehf's Hardware and Paint Store.

Herb Leach Quality Shop was owned by Herb Leach, with Paul Reder, Giff Tuttle and Bob Kintz meeting customers. Rudy Shonfield owned Midwest Floor Coverings, and vied with Joe Malooley for the enviable title of mayor of Fifth Street. Froeb Jewelry Store, a family-owned store for many years, was next to Leaches.

After Hillman's was founded more than 50 years ago, George Felstein became involved in civic affairs, and remained active until his retirement. Salo Levite of Meis, who also came to Terre Haute with the opening of the store, was active in The Chamber of

Commerce and Merchants Association. Harold Wright, manager of Woolworth's, was president of the local Jaycees, active in the Chamber and Merchants Association.

The oldest store on Wabash Avenue, the W.H. Paige Music Co., was opened by W.H. Paige more than a century ago, and the third generation now operates the store, Warner H. Paige III. The firm has a store in Honey Creek Square and another in Indianapolis.

Herz, later to become Alden's was managed by John Hefty during its later years. Al Stern managed the store for Aldens. Ed Cantor and Alex Weinberger bought the Levinson store from "Corky" Levinson, son of the founder. The J.C. Penney and Sears stores were also in the block. David Caden had a women's shop on the north side, moving to the south after fire destroyed the building.



# role in city's past

## Doctors, lawyers also played big

1 s MAR 28 1985

The people who contribute to a community to its growth, its culture, its progress — come from all walks of life, from all economic levels, from no education to Ph.D.s. Of course there are those who contribute nothing, regardless of income, or vocation or ability. In the third group are those who actually hinder growth and progress and spirit.

Many names have been mentioned in this column in the past few weeks — largely those who have somehow, somehow assisted in community development. Many names have been omitted, but only from lack of memory, not intention.

Doctors and lawyers are very busy people, and most just do not have the time to raise funds, plan programs, aid government leaders. Many of them work behind the scenes and are never

known — kudos to all of them.

Just to mention a few attorneys, some mentioned a week or so ago, we must include George Scott who was a familiar figure on Wabash Avenue for many years. Prior to closing his office, in his 80s, he walked to and from the Court House in a gray suit with a salt-and-pepper beard and mustache and a felt hat in the winter. He also wore a straw hat in the summer. He seldom stopped, but acknowledged greetings from everyone.

George O. Dix, Floyd Dix, Robert Ratcliffe, Jerdie Mewis (who is perhaps the dean of practicing lawyers now), Bob McPeak, Frank Miller, Leonard Kincade (former prosecuting attorney and county attorney), Lenhardt Bauer, Howard Batman (former state representative and public counselor for



**Main Street**

Richard Tuttle, who retired from The Tribune-Star in 1983, is a walking compendium of Terre Haute history.

**By Richard C. Tuttle**  
*Assistant Editor Emeritus*

the Public Service Commission), John Biel, Judge Frank Rawley, Gilbert Gambill, Ray Kearns, Ora Davis (mayor), Judge Mann, Ed Everett (city

judge), Warren Everett, Dave Rosenfeld and many others.

Old Dr. Spigler (identifying him from his son) was the first doctor I recall. He took care of cuts and measles and such when I was small. Dr. Jim Spigler came along later, and in between was Dr. Rudolph Duenweg, who took care of the entire Tuttle family, delivering five of the six of us. Others in the medical profession who helped keep the community healthy were Dr. Henry Bopp (father of Drs. Henry and Jim Bopp), Dr. A.W. Cavins, Dr. James Fortune, Dr. Noel McBride, both Dr. Hoovers (father and son), Dr. Don Mattox, Dr. Zaring, Dr. John showalter, Dr. Baldrige, just to mention a few.

Terre Haute has been extremely fortunate in having highly skilled medical and legal men and women.

There have ben comments at times that we have too many — perhaps a total figure of too many, but there is one available when we need the special skills and qualifications.

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We heard a remark recently in response to a rather derogatory statement regarding state legislatures and congress and our system of democracy. The reply was "Well, maybe that's the way democracy was supposed to work — a lot of talk avoiding an issue, alot of time investigating a problem, not responding directly to an inquiry and so on. This gives us a lot of time to think — then blast the legislators and Congressmen to get on the ball, get off dead center. That's when the people speak, which is what they are supposed to do."

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Community Affairs File



# Once there was a town that grew up to be a city

It is a town, like many other towns. There is a courthouse, but no courthouse square. Of course, at the beginning there was a court house square, but the town grew away from it until there was only business firms on two sides, feed stores on another and a bakery on the fourth side.

The town grew along a major national road, but the founding fathers had planned growth along a crossroad, and made it twice as wide, and a boulevard as the road extended beyond the business area.

It seemed there was always change, which was natural in a growing community. At first there was pork packing, with the salt pork being shipped down the river to New Orleans. Of course the river was the major reason the town was located where it was — that, and a pioneer trail that led westward as the nation's frontiers moved from the Atlantic Ocean and the Appalachian mountains west.

At first, an Army fort to the north provided some protection from the Indians, although there wasn't many war-like tribes in the area in the early 19th century. There were Indians, but most were peaceful, except at times when the white man's firewater aroused a few braves.

As the town grew away from the river, and not along its banks as originally thought, there were many problems, and a government of some type became necessary. Early in this era, the county had been established, thus the courthouse, with judges and sheriff, a jail, and other necessary officials. A town board handled the affairs of the small town. And if there was government, there had to be funds, and there had to be taxes of some kind. Such was the beginning.

Within a few years, the river became filled with logs and the channel filled with silt from the almost annual floods. So a canal concept was developed, as water seemed the natural and easiest and often the fastest means of transportation, especially for grains and produce and other freight. The canal was completed, came from the north and continued south. But by this time another change



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developed — the railroad.

With the railroads and the steam engines came coal — the black diamonds out of the ground. And coal was in abundance in the vicinity of the town. Because of the coal, industry was started — nail plants, foundries, iron rail mills, grain elevators, buggy shops, a distillery or two, pork packing plants — and the usual business firms connected with the home and comfort of the residents.

This was (and is) Terre Haute — for about the first 50 years. Many other things were to occur in and to the town, sometime in the future. More changes, conflicts — and growth.

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In discussing various leaders in Terre Haute over the years, as we have recently, we overlook some, not intentionally. Two in particular have been brought to mind by telephone calls — John Logan, president of Rose-Hulman for many years; and N. George Nasser, who is probably vice dean of the legal profession. We deeply regret the oversight, knowing both of them well.

Dr. Logan's many experiences have extended over the world. His experiences as an engineer are innumerable and with distinction and honor. His contributions to Rose-Hulman are outstanding, and extend into the entire Terre Haute area. He is a most remarkable man, and the school and community owe him recognition and honor.

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# person's sweet tooth

## Trip down memory lane tickles

Ts APR 1 1 1985

There are few restaurants which could qualify as being historical, but there are many more restaurants now than there were three decades ago. Of course, the fast-food category accounts for most of the increase, while the dining spots with "atmosphere" and good food have declined in number.

There were two or three eating establishments noted for excelling in barbecue food. Those include Walt Stevens Restaurant, on South 25th Street below Hulman Street; Ted and Toots Brown Restaurant, on Poplar Street near 14th Street; and Danny Burke's Restaurant, at Seventh and Voorhees streets.

Ted Brown closed and later became home for a beer distributorship. Danny Burke later sold his restaurant, which became a drive-in ice cream and sandwich spot. Burke went to work in the Marine Room of the Terre Haute House.

Shorter's Restaurant, located in

Spelerville, specializing in fish. The establishment is now known as the Spelerville Inn, and is a favorite place to get tenderloin sandwiches. The Candlelight Restaurant, located in Youngstown, was Randall's Restaurant in the 1930s, and was recognized for tenderloin sandwiches and fruit-salad sundaes. It was popular with college students.

Downtown Berry's Restaurant had atmosphere, was not too expensive, had good food and excellent homemade pastries. King Lem Inn, located next to the Orpheum Theater before being moved a block east, was an excellent restaurant for Chinese food. In fact, it was the only Chinese restaurant in town. Mother Eaton Restaurant was originally located on East Main Street, but was later moved to the Filbeck Hotel on Cherry Street.

Among other local eating establishments, The Goodie Shop was first located on Main Street, then moved to



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South Sixth Street before finally resting at its present location on Ohio Street. At all three sites, the restaurant has been under the ownership of George Martin.

Frank's Restaurant, located near 13th and Main streets, was owned by

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Frank Martin, George's brother. That's where I had my first bottle of legal beer, a Budweiser, which I didn't like very well and still don't.

Max Schafer owned The Health Office, located at 502-A Main St. The delicatessen was only about 10 feet wide, with two or three tables available. Schafer later sold the business, which was moved a block west, before becoming active in local labor activities.

Both the Deming Hotel and the Terre Haute House had lounges, dining rooms and coffee shops. The Copper Penny Lounge was in the Deming, while the Marine Room was located in the Terre Haute House. Monte Cristo sandwich was one feature of the dinning room in the Terre Haute Haute. I still haven't found the sandwich anyplace else. The clam chowder on Friday in the Marine Room was excellent.

Hill's Snappy Hamburgers was the first of the fast-food emporiums in Terre Haute. With sites at several locations —

9½ and Main streets, North Fifth Street, and east of Seventh on Ohio streets. Hamburgers were priced a nickel or you could purchase six for 25 cents. Chili Bills was located at 710 Ohio St., and no one makes chili like that anymore. Tom's Diner was located at Sixth and Cherry streets, with another at 19th Street and Maple Avenue. Tom was an avid race fan, sponsoring cars in local dirt track races. He also had a toned-down model racer that he drove around town.

Joe Traum had two floors of restaurants at 673 Wabash Ave. A bar with food service was located on the first floor, while a rather fancy restaurant appeared on the second floor. The restaurant had plenty of atmosphere and excellent food. The Bomber Bar, owned by Bob Coates, was located on South Seventh Street, as was the Toasty Shop, owned by Winslow Clark.

Perhaps soon, this measure of history will be expanded here.



History (24.)  
in early 1880's

# Terre Haute's growing pains started

T s APR 25 1985

One crisis after another dots the history of any community — large and small.

There is always a money crisis — not enough to last through the year — not enough to build a sorely-needed school or firehouse, or buy another fire truck or patrol car for the police department.

Property taxes carry the brunt of local government costs. There has been small measure of relief in the past decade with property tax relief from the state, although these funds are largely from the state income tax. Federal revenue sharing has proven relief from time to time. But as both state and federal government costs increase, as the politicians succumb (as usual) to this, that and the other plea, the funds decline.

In the early days of Terre Haute and

Vigo County, local taxes paid the bills for everything — police, fire, schools, government offices, plank sidewalks and corduroy streets and roads (and these over only the softest spots). But then a dollar might buy 10 logs or so, six inches in diameter and fifteen feet in length. Only wagons and buggies and horses and oxen used the streets and roads, too.

The first library was founded in 1824, only a few years after the first plat of Terre Haute was filed. It was a paid library, a person had a membership which entitled the holder to use the library and withdraw books. William C. Linton was president, and trustees were James Farrington, Curtis Gilbert, William Clark, Nathaniel Huntington, D.H. Johnson, P.F. Durkee, George Hussey — prominent community



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leaders and businessmen.

To provide a measure of relaxation, the first distillery was started by John F. King in 1825. An attorney published

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By Penny Blaker Mitchell  
Tribune-Star Living Editor

Times change. People change.  
Some things never change.

A quiet afternoon, a quiet room and the companionship of a newspaper — brittle and yellow with age — take us back to life in Vigo County 100 years ago.

The pages of the Thursday, April 30, 1885, issue of the Terre Haute Weekly Gazette are filled with bits of information about politics, murders and news from neighboring villages.

The newspaper, now a part of the collection at the Historical Museum of the Wabash Valley, tells stories in long headlines and one-line stories:

*"Old-Time Politics" one headline proclaimed,*

*"Some Reminiscences of Vigo County's*

*Political Past*

*Voorhees Succeeds Himself*

*Decline of the National Cause; Maj. Smith and Col. Hudson Get Involved in a Terrible Row"*

Another front page headline said simply:

*"WASHINGTON*

*A Number of Postmasters Appointed*

*But Terre Haute not One"*

"Minor Mention" was made of an incident in Vincennes involving "Jesse Edwards and Brother Ike."

"Vincennes: April 26 — Jesse Edwards has been a very bad boy. He had a brother Ike, almost as malicious, who was found lying on a sand bank on the river's edge in South Vincennes, last summer in the broiling sun — dead from the effects of liquor. Jesse last fall, in **a water street saloon at night, cut** a comrade with a razor, until the flesh along the cheek bone hung down like a hound's ear ... "

In one line of words, the Gazette editor announced, "The fine against T. W. Harper for contempt of court still remains unpaid."

He deemed this item from the Carlisle Volunteer worthy of repeating: "Judging from Mr. Evarts' Boston speech, the Republican party is like a girl that would like to be courted, and doesn't like to ask."

The news was short and sweet: "Afternoon teas are the present social rage."

"Philadelphia now leads the world in divorce suits."

"Justice Steinmehl:

"In the case against Wm. Ruark for bastardy the court found for the defendant. The testimony was very raw."

The circus was in town in April of 1885. "The horses in the Cole Circus are fine, sleek, well fed

animals. The circus goes from here to Sullivan," the newspaper reported.

Desiring more business, some Terre Haute merchants announced plans for an excursion from Hutsonville:

"Myers Bros. deserve credit for their endeavors to bring Terre Haute the trade from Hutsonville and points south on the river to which this city is justly entitled. They have arranged at some expense an excursion to this city on the steamer Ida Lee for next Wednesday, May 6th."

According to the article, the steamer would leave Hutsonville at 5 a.m. and reach Terre Haute at 11. The round trip from Hutsonville would cost 75 cents.

"Sal Soda" shared Prairie Creek news with Weekly Gazette readers: "Oats are looking fine ... Corn planting will begin next week ... Amos Holloway's house is fast nearing completion. When finished it will be one of the most elegant houses in this township ... We learn that the attendance of the schools this winter has been better than ever before. Notwithstanding the long and severe winter, some pupils have gone everyday of the long seven months term ... "

"Prairieton Paragraphs" by "Count Em" included this information: "Dr. L. S. Ball has put up a very simple though excellent fence around his dwelling. Quite an improvement to the village ... James Reynolds' horse died this week; others have lost horses in the country around. At this rate horses will be high soon ... "

In the back of the paper, another headline listed details of a murder:

*"ECKARD FOUND*

*The Missing Butcher Lays in Water*

*Several Weeks*

*A Postmortem Examination Shows He Might Have Received a Blow. His Brother-in-law, Shoemaker Helt,*

*Suddenly Leaves the City."*

Local news included obituaries: Martin Rebber, 17, who died "of protracted sickness with a throat trouble;" and Mary Pritchard, 31, who died of consumption.

Shoppers scanning the advertisements found that Pixley & Co.'s Clothing Store was offering "Men's fine all-wool spring suits, \$10; boys' school suits, \$5; men's fine spring style stiff hats, \$1.50; and men's fine spring-style soft hats, \$1."

Deemed a "Life Preserver," readers were advised, "If you are losing your grip on life, take Wells Health Renewer. Goes direct to weak spots."

The top of the pages of the Gazette were uncut. To enjoy the inside pages, the reader had to open the paper and turn it upside down.

Subscription cost was \$1.50 per year.

Hot news from  
April 30, 1885...

Community Affairs File

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# Last Man's Club

## Last man breaks bottle on local

T's MAY 16 1985

The first Last Man's Club in Vigo County has passed into history. Last Man's Clubs were all associated with American Legion Posts, and the first was at Fort Harrison American Legion Post No. 40 on South 5th Street.

In all such clubs there were 13 members. The clubs would meet on Friday the 13th for dinner, with a social hour preceding. The members had no regard for bad luck superstitions as walking under a ladder when they entered the room, breaking mirrors, having a black cat walk across their paths, and others.

At the first meeting, a bottle of champagne was dedicated to the last surviving member of the club. He in turned dissolved the club and broke the bottle in a toast to the deceased members.

Members of the Fort Harrison Last

*History (T.H.)*  
Man's Club were L.E. "Bubbles" Cliff, who owned Cliff Boiler Works on Crawford street; George Beck and Bill Hamilton, local optometrists; Alonzo Duddleston, a city clerk under Mayor Vern McMillan; Tommy Snyder, owner of Snyder Art Shop; and "Robby" Robertson.

Other members included H.S. Kelly, who later moved to Tennessee, but returned for each meeting; Gus Theodore, mayor of Seventh and Main streets; Floyd Dix, an attorney; Ora Davis, an attorney and former Terre Haute mayor; Harold Fox, of Terre Haute First National Bank; J.B. Harned, former editor of The Saturday Spectator; and Harry Fitch, an insurance agent and aviation enthusiast.

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As it was and never shall be — again.

### Main Street



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By Richard C. Tuttle  
*Assistant Editor Emeritus*

Examine closely prices of the following items which prevailed in Terre Haute in 1818: one-half pint of whiskey, one bit or 12½ cents; rum (same amount) 37½ cents; gin, 18½ cents, same amount;

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Community Affairs File



board and lodging, one week, \$2.50, and 25 cents a night for your horse.

Taxes were levied by the acre in rural areas, according to the quality of land: first-class land was taxed at 50 cents for 100 acres; second class was assessed 43¼-cents per 100 acres; and third-class property went for 31½-cents per 100 acres. A horse was taxed at 37⅓ cents. A tavern had to pay \$20 annually, while ferry board was \$5 a year, town lots were assessed 50 cents for each \$100 evaluation or \$1 per acre.

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Origin of some street names are rather obvious — Deming Street was for Demas Deming, Gilbert Avenue for Curtis Gilbert, Farrington Street and Farrington Grove for attorney James Farrington, Warren Street for merchant Leo Warren, and Harding Street for journalist George Harding.

Tree names — ~~Maple~~, Linden, Buckeye, Beech, Ash — were used in the north end of town.

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In the early years, Terre Haute had too few doctors, just as small towns today have trouble getting and keeping young doctors. Dr. Septer Patrick, Dr. Hitchcock Sr., Dr. Ball and Dr. Modesett were among the earliest.

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The city street department smoothed part of the intersection at Seventh and Walnut streets, but most of it is still rough. General Telephone didn't fix the intersection at Eighth and Swan streets, after making some line repairs. And, South Seventh Street from Margaret to Davis Avenue is deplorable. There's been some patching, none of it very good. It appears it will be many years before this is widened, according to a long-range plan.



# Amid the elm groves

## Area let residents enjoy the good life

T's JUN 2 1985

Clark, Dorothy  
History (T.H.)

Located north of the stoplight intersection of Lafayette Road and Park Avenue in North Terre Haute, Elm Grove has a long history of community involvement. Old-timers living in the area knew the property first as the McMullen farm when groves of elm trees afforded shade for cattle. At that time the cow pasture was surrounded by a rail fence to keep the animals from straying too far.

Otter Creek had always provided several good swimming holes for the boys of pioneer families living near its meandering path to the Wabash River. Bathing facilities were few and far between in the early days of settlement in northern Vigo County, and swimming holes served the double purpose of recreation and cleanliness in the hot summer weather.

After religious duties were taken care of on Sunday and the bountiful noon dinner was over, it was time to think of the baseball game at Elm Grove. At first these were just "pick-up" games enjoyed by the younger boys, but America's greatest pastime was soon taken over by the young men in the area.

Teams were formed, and games were scheduled with teams from other parts of the county. Intense rivalries commenced, and soon crowds came to root for the North Terre Haute Grays at the baseball diamond in Elm Grove.

Church picnics were spread in the shade of the Elm Grove trees. Family reunions and all-day picnics were enjoyed, along with

### Historically speaking



Clark is Vigo County's official historian and formerly worked for The Terre Haute Tribune.

By Dorothy Clark  
*Special to The Tribune-Star*

swimming, dancing and baseball games. By this time the land was owned by Louis Schaumberger, who built the stucco house north of the bridge as his residence.

Seeing the possibilities in developing his property for recreation in the early 1920s, Schaumberger formed a corporation with Otto Erickson, garage owner, Harry Culley, and several other investors. First they built a dance pavilion where matinee dances were held following the ballgames, and dances continued on into the late evening.

William L. Schomer operated the dance hall as a family affair. His wife, Eula, sold dance tickets; their son, Wayne, took tickets; and their daughter, Grace, played the piano with the first dance band along with Dr. Walter "Ted" Anderson, Birch Arkett and David "Todd" Ensminger.

This combo played 42 dances

without intermission. Each dance lasted two minutes and cost a nickel. Young men bought tickets by the yard. The second year "Connie" Conrad joined the band as director, along with Ross Kirchner, Charlie Stark and Newt Alexander.

The Elm Grove dance hall thrived until another dance hall, Summer Gardens, was opened in 1923-24 by John Roberts north of Deming Park and east of the viaduct. The new dance hall offered penny dances, and crowds took advantage of the bargain. Summer Gardens operated until the Trianon opened on Wabash Avenue.

By this time Grace Schomer had graduated from high school and entered college. She didn't have time or the energy for her musical job as much as she enjoyed it. Joe King took her place as pianist. Later she married Everett Spence, the first lifeguard at the Elm Grove swimming hole in Otter Creek, with its sandy beach, diving boards and other facilities.

According to Pauline (Shadley) Baxter, her father, Harvey D. Shadley, and Louis Schaumberger built the beautiful Elm Grove swimming pool in 1922. It proved to be very popular and attracted bathers from all over the Wabash Valley. It was closed in 1942.

During its 20 years of existence, it saw the changes in men's bathing attire from the old-fashioned suits covering the chest to the daring styles that followed with waistline

zippers allowing the tops to be removed by the most daring males. Bathing trunks were considered very modern.

Females wore modest wool or cotton tank suits when the pool was first opened. These heavy-when-wet suits had extra skirts over the mid-thigh undergarment. They were modified to one-piece suits, then to two-piece, exposing the midriff which was considered very daring, and getting briefer as World War II approached.

In 1922 Claude Cummins opened an outdoor barbeque that proved extremely popular with the Elm Grove crowds. His delicious sandwiches are still remembered with nostalgic delight by all those who were lucky enough to have experienced them.

At different times there were all sorts of concession stands at Elm Grove to take care of the needs of such a popular place. They sold popcorn, candy, balloons, toys, ice cream cones and bars, etc.

A huge tent-covered roller skating rink with a wooden floor was constructed in the Elm Grove complex, one of the first in the area. It provided family recreation until it was torched and totally destroyed by vandals.

Elm Grove brought prosperity and recreation to the North Terre Haute community by bringing in people from all over the valley to spend money while enjoying themselves.



*History (TA)*

T s JUN 23 1955

# Clothing represented two moods of the '20s

By Susie Dewey  
Special to The Tribune-Star

The clothing of 1928 represented the two moods of the 1920s: pleasure-seeking and puritanical repression.

Movies starring Joan Crawford and Clara Bow, the "It" girl, showed the short, swinging skirts. Dresses of soft, filmy fabrics were worn by Terre Haute matrons to the formal opening of the Terre Haute House on July 6, 1928.

Both styles will be in evidence during the summer gala presented by the Vigo County Historical Society July 6 in Tirey Memorial Union on the campus of Indiana State University. Recreating the date, some members of the society and guests will be in costumes of the 1920s.

In answer to textile manufacturers' protests, designers in 1928 began to create styles using more fabric. The shortest skirts were worn between 1925 and 1927.

In 1928, women began to let their hair grow and the bobs were longer. The shingle was still worn, but only by those not keeping up with the times. The permanent wave, created by a demonic electric machine, was the newest hair style. In Clinton, Wanda Lou Shew claimed the honor of being the youngest girl with a permanent wave. She was 2½.

In answer to the preaching of Billy Sunday, make-up was vivid and very conspicuous. Rouge and lipstick were added to flesh-colored face powder.

Silk and rayon stockings, sometimes called hose, came into general wear during the decade. Beige was the favorite and most stylish color. The Terre Haute Star of July 6, 1928, admonished female readers never to apply a hot iron or hot water to their silk stockings.

The introduction of flesh-colored stockings in 1924 was revolutionary. Hem lines rose in front and fell in the back so such daring items could be featured. In New York City, some especially bold young ladies wore stockings with roses painted on the knees.

Caricatures of the period do not do justice to the dresses the average women wore. In Terre Haute in July 1928, a contest, "Why I Prefer To Buy My Clothes Ready Made," was to end July 10. Prizes of ready-made garments were to be awarded July 15.

Entrants wrote letters with their reasons for no longer making their own clothes.

After July 4, 1928, stores advertised bargains in good summer clothes and hats. Herz, in a three-day sale, sold summer silk dresses, originally \$18, for \$9. Meis advertised blazer coats to be worn with pleated skirts and silk blouses. Jame Wolf advertised quality clothes at reduced prices. Lederer Himself stressed ready-to-wear clothing since he was sponsor of the contest.

Ben Becker urged men, women and children to buy shoes since all brands were reduced. Buster Brown shoes for children were especially popular. Black patent leather shoes were acceptable in all seasons and for all events.

Gloves were essential for summer chic. Perspiration-proof gloves were advertised.

Since the styles, still straight and slim, now required softer fabrics for draping, materials had such exotic names as georgette, crepe de chine, chiffon and chiffon velvet. The fabrics lived up to their names. In 1928 Louise Bolanger, a Parisian modiste, introduced the chiffon evening dress.

The 20s were the decade of the one-piece dress but bodices continued to receive attention. The sleeveless round-necked gowns were ornamented with crystal or metallic beads, often following the pattern of the fabric.

Ornamenting dresses were large artificial flowers at either the shoulder or the low waist. Sometimes a flower was actually painted on the fabric. Such dresses were very expensive. Since the extremely soft fabrics were replacing taffeta, several layers of fabric often were used in the skirts.

The ladies who attended the opening of the Terre Haute House wore beautiful dresses. Anna Bowles Wiley, the society editor of The Terre Haute Star, filled several columns with the names of women who attended and descriptions of their dresses. Gowns of black lace and net were embroidered with rhinestones and crystal beads. Pink georgette was printed with roses. Oyster-white silk had hand-painted irises on the skirt.

The clothing of 1928 reflected the affluence and euphoria of the year. Clothing and textile manufacturers took time to create beautiful effects for people who were pleased with themselves and their world.

Community Affairs File

Vigo County Public Library

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Tribune-Star/Bob Poynter

## Ready for the dance

Laney Meis, Peg Apgar and Jane Woelfle are ready for "Speakeasy at the Crackerbox" set for 8 p.m. July 6 in Tirey Memorial Union on the campus of Indiana State University. Presented by the Vigo County Historical Society, the evening will include fashions, heroes and refreshments of July 6, 1928.



# Diarist recalls TH as 'land of best quality'

T s JUN 30 1985

Old diaries turn up in surprising places. One found in California more than 25 years ago tells of a trip across Indiana in a horse and buggy in 1857 by John C. Rickey, a dry goods salesman. He made daily entries of his "Western Tour," as he called it, leaving from Richmond, Jefferson County, Ohio, on June 26, 1857.

Rickey crossed the state line July 4 and traveled through Jasper, Richmond and Centerville, the county seat of Wayne County, Ind. He observed that "the land was of good quality, lays well, and is mostly pretty well improved."

"This morning (July 5) being at rather weird a place, I started early and passed Pennville and German-town and had breakfast at Cambridge City, a flourishing village on the Canal. Then passed Dublin, Lewisville, Ogden, Knightstown and put up at Greenfield, county seat of Hancock County."

He told about passing over the unfinished portion of the National Road for about 15 miles and the only bad road encountered since he left New Philadelphia.

"I then got onto a plank road," he wrote, "that extended from Cleveland westward through Indianapolis about 40 miles. This is decidedly the pleasantist (sic) for a buggy I ever saw."

Leaving Greenfield on July 6, he described it as "one of the poorest county towns I have met with on my tour, and passed by Philadelphia, Cumberland and the city of Indianapolis." He put up at a Quaker village called Plainfield at the Friend's Tavern in comfortable accommodations.

Rickey described Indianapolis as more than a mile square, as presenting a very imposing appearance with ornamental shade trees of various kinds. He noted the courthouse and the statehouse both occupied whole squares, and the governor's mansion was situated in a circular inclosure of about half an acre in the city's center.

On Monday, July 7, he wrote a letter home while waiting for a hard rain to stop and then set off on his journey. He passed through the villages of Billville, Stilesville, Putnamville and Mount Meridian. The plank road had run out soon after he left Plainfield, and because of the downpour, the unfinished National Road became impassable.

Rickey described this country as "more broken or rolling than I had seen so far, but not what you would

## Historically speaking



Clark is Vigo County's official historian and formerly worked for The Terre Haute Tribune.

By Dorothy Clark

Special to The Tribune-Star

call hilly. The land is of good quality and well timbered, but the general appearance of things is not so good as further east in the state."

The next day Rickey traveled "through the roughest portion of Indiana that is met with in crossing the state. I passed through the villages of Manhattan and Pleasant Gardens in Putnam County, and Williamtown and Vigo in Clay County, and put up at Terre Haute, the county seat of Vigo County."

"For several miles east of this place," Rickey noted, "the land is of the best quality, the improvements generally good, and the grains excellent. Terre Haute is a large thriving town on the Wabash River and the Terminal of the Wabash & Erie Canal and is a place of Great Promises."

On July 9, Rickey left the National Road to pass "by a small place called St. Mary-of-the-Woods. Here is an academy that makes a very fine appearance. It is located on an eminence with the valley of the Wabash River about four miles from Terre Haute and is surrounded by woods."

About three miles further on the salesman passed over the state line between Indiana and Illinois. "The only town I passed this day was Paris, the county seat of Edgar County, located in the eastern side of Grand Prairie. Here I was told there were no more villages for 18 miles but that I could stay at any of the houses I would pass."

Rickey's diary continued to record his observations of his trip which continued on as far as Dubuque, Iowa, where he stopped writing. It's interesting to conjecture what the critical Mr. Rickey would write if he drove his horse and buggy across Indiana 128 years later.



# Things were hot in July, 1928

T s JUL 3 1985

By Susie Dewey  
Special to The Tribune-Star

Terre Haute sweltered in a heat wave during the week of July 2, 1928.

Air conditioning was unknown, so fans, watermelon and ice cream were the big coolers. Swimming holes and pools were crowded day and night. The Fairbanks swimming pool accommodated 997 persons July 4 — a record crowd. The pool collected \$250 that day.

Elm Grove offered free, open air dancing Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday nights.

Morning readers of the Terre Haute Star received a hefty newspaper for 3 cents. They either received the Star at home or bought it from a newsboy who called out the headlines on the street corners of the downtown area.

After readers learned from weatherman O. E. Moery that no relief from the sultry weather could be expected, they chuckled at Will Rogers' humor for the day, pondered over Arthur Brisbane's analysis of world affairs and admired Edgar Guest's poem for the day. In her column, Dorothy Dix advised girls not to go about with married men. No good would come of it, she said.

The first train crossed the new million dollar Pennsylvania railroad bridge a few days before July 1. A picture of the graceful structure was in the paper.

Pictures of the new Terre Haute House, to be formally opened Friday, July 6, were carried all week in the paper. The contractors, suppliers and builders of the structure filled the papers with advertisements of their parts in providing the city with a new, ultra-modern, 250-room hotel.

A still operator in the north part of the city was apprehended and arrested by Sheriff Ray Fencannon, Federal Agent Ray Trueblood and Deputy Sheriff Jim Staton in an unusual manner. As the law officers approached the owner's residence, he fled up the dry bed of Otter Creek, leaving behind a 70 gallon still, 10 gallons of white mule and some corn mash. He ran swiftly down the creek bed and regained the street some distance away.

He considered himself safe, but the alert law men recognized him as their man from his heavily perspiring face and aromatic clothing.

At the Fourth of July celebration at Memorial Stadium, the largest crowd ever assembled saw a fantastic display of fireworks provided by the American Legion. When the crowd assembled at 6 p.m., the temperature was 87 degrees. At 9:30, a severe thunderstorm drenched the crowd. Fortunately, the fireworks were over. One spectator was injured by the storm, but not seriously.

There was no lack of entertainment in the city that week. The Grand, American, Liberty, Foun-

tain, Savoy, Princess and Lyceum movie houses offered a wide selection of films. Movies changed on a three or four day run. Stars being featured included Tom Mix, Colleen Moore, Gilda Gray and Norma Shearer.

The Hippodrome presented live stage shows and live orchestra music. A traveling troupe, a Robertson Smith presentation, was offering "Applesauce, a comedy." Evening prices were 25, 50 and 75 cents, but matinees were cheaper.

The Hippodrome advertised a red-head night for July 6 when any girl over 16 with red hair would be admitted free.

On Saturday, July 7, a Sells Floto Circus was to put up tents at 30th Street and Wabash Avenue. Tickets were available at the Bauer Drug Store on Wabash Avenue. The Star was filled with pictures of tightrope walkers, clowns and wild animal trainers.

Mid-summer sales were featured in all local advertisements beginning July 5. Ben Becker Shoes sold shoes for women and children at bargain prices. Schultz, Meis, Herz, Penney's, Jame Wolf and May Shop offered summer clothes at rock bottom prices. Gillis and Hook drug stores had specials on Pepsodent and Ipana toothpaste, Lucky Strike cigarettes and Listerine mouthwash. At the A & P Grocery, three pounds of coffee for \$1 was the featured item.

The newspaper paid little attention to the presidential campaign of Al Smith and Herbert

Hoover.

More attention was given to the death of Capt. Alfred Loewenstein, reputedly the richest man in the world. His fall from a private plane over the English Channel was considered suicide rather than a tragic mistake.

Two Italian aviators set flight records from Rome to Rio, 4,600 miles.

In New York City, gangster Frankie Vale was buried after 5,000 people attended his funeral Mass.

Locally, Ed Callahan was forced off the road near Atherton and robbed by three masked men.

Fans of Bud Taylor, the "Hoosier Hellcat," were planning a trip to Los Angeles for his fight with Vacco July 10.

The Terre Haute Tots defeated the Danville Vets 4-3 on July 5.

The newspaper reader of the week July 2-7 received a lot of information and a lot of amusement from his morning Star.

☆☆☆

Many of the events of the week of July 2, 1928, will be recreated Saturday night in Tirey Memorial Union on the campus of Indiana State University during "Speakeasy at the Crackerbox" — the summer gala presented by the Vigo County Historical Society. Songs and dances typical of the 1920s will be available in Frenchie's Road House and the Crackerbox Speakeasy. Celebrities of the time are expected to stroll the street between the two establishments.

Community Affairs File

Vigo County Public Library

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### **At the speakeasy**

**Tribune-Star/Jim Avelis**

Laika Llewellyn and Bob Grohousky get in step for "Speakeasy at the Crackerbox" Saturday night in Tirey Memorial Union on the campus of Indiana State University. Presented by the Vigo County Historical Society, the evening will feature songs, dances and characters of July 6, 1928.



## Wake-up call



A veteran newswoman whose credits include three years as city editor of The Tribune-Star, Kaufman now writes daily on this page about life and those who live it in the Wabash Valley.

By Susan J. Kaufman  
Tribune-Star staff columnist

# Research digs into city myths

Every Tuesday, 32-year-old doctoral candidate Gary Bailey greets the morning in Bloomington, climbs into his car and drives to Terre Haute to spend the day at the Vigo County Public Library.

Bailey, who has been at Indiana University in a variety of capacities for the past five years, has been making the trek to Terre Haute since last fall.

His interest in archival information stored here was piqued several years ago when he came upon an article about the general strike of 1935.

Now, as the 50th anniversary of that ignoble event is fast upon us, Bailey sits each week surrounded by the remnants of Terre Haute history.

His dissertation is not about the 1935 event. Rather, he says, "I'm interested in the development of Terre Haute over an extensive period of time — from the 1870s to the 1930s — to see how the city's working class participated in social life, politics and how the city's economic changes affected them."

Bailey did research the 1935 strike for an article that appeared in the Indiana Magazine of History last September.

But now he is more interested in finding out more about what he calls "significant episodes important in the city's history."

One of those was the 1902 street-car strike, "which seemed to result in a virtual boycott of city businesses. It was a very divisive experience and will tell a lot about what's going on in the city today."

Bailey, whose wife, Joanne, is a librarian at IU who also is working on her doctorate, drew attention to another of Terre Haute's peculiarities.

"Almost everyone can recall the tale of Mayor Don Roberts being impeached in 1915," he said. "But there was another case, at least as interesting, which few recall."

In that case, Bailey said, factory owners were pushing to remove Mayor Edwin J. Bidaman from office because of his weak stance on saloon closing-hour laws and the opening of saloons on Sunday. Bidaman served from 1904-1906.

"Apparently the factory owners didn't like their workers being in the saloon, which was much more a social place in those days, on Sundays and too late at night," Bailey said. "In effect, they were trying to push the mayor to enforce the law or they would replace him."

Bailey said he has noticed that there is a great mythology built up around the general strike — that it did irreparable damage to the city in terms of its growth — but that "no one has proved that at all."

Bailey said his research tends to show that city growth was slowing well before the strike. "In fact there was an earlier dissertation by an economist that talked about the failure of the city to grow economically."

But the local mythology is what folks remember, Bailey said, "and they tend to attribute things that happened to that event — the general strike."

The kind of historical research that Bailey is doing is relatively new to his field. "The focus I'm using became popular in the '50s and '60s. It's a focus on common, everyday people. What it means is that you have to dig a lot more for sources. The common people didn't leave as many diaries, journals, etc. I'm constantly digging for them."

Bailey said editions of The Advocate and other local union trade papers are virtually non-existent from about 1919 to 1933.

"I know somewhere, someone must have copies of these things in an attic or basement," he said.

Such a find turned up not long ago in the form of local union minutes found in the labor temple here.

If any of our readers can lend a hand, Bailey's more than willing to talk.

You can find him every Tuesday in the special collections section of the Vigo County Public Library.

Vigo County Public Library



# 50 years ago strike made Terre Haute stop

## City under martial law for months

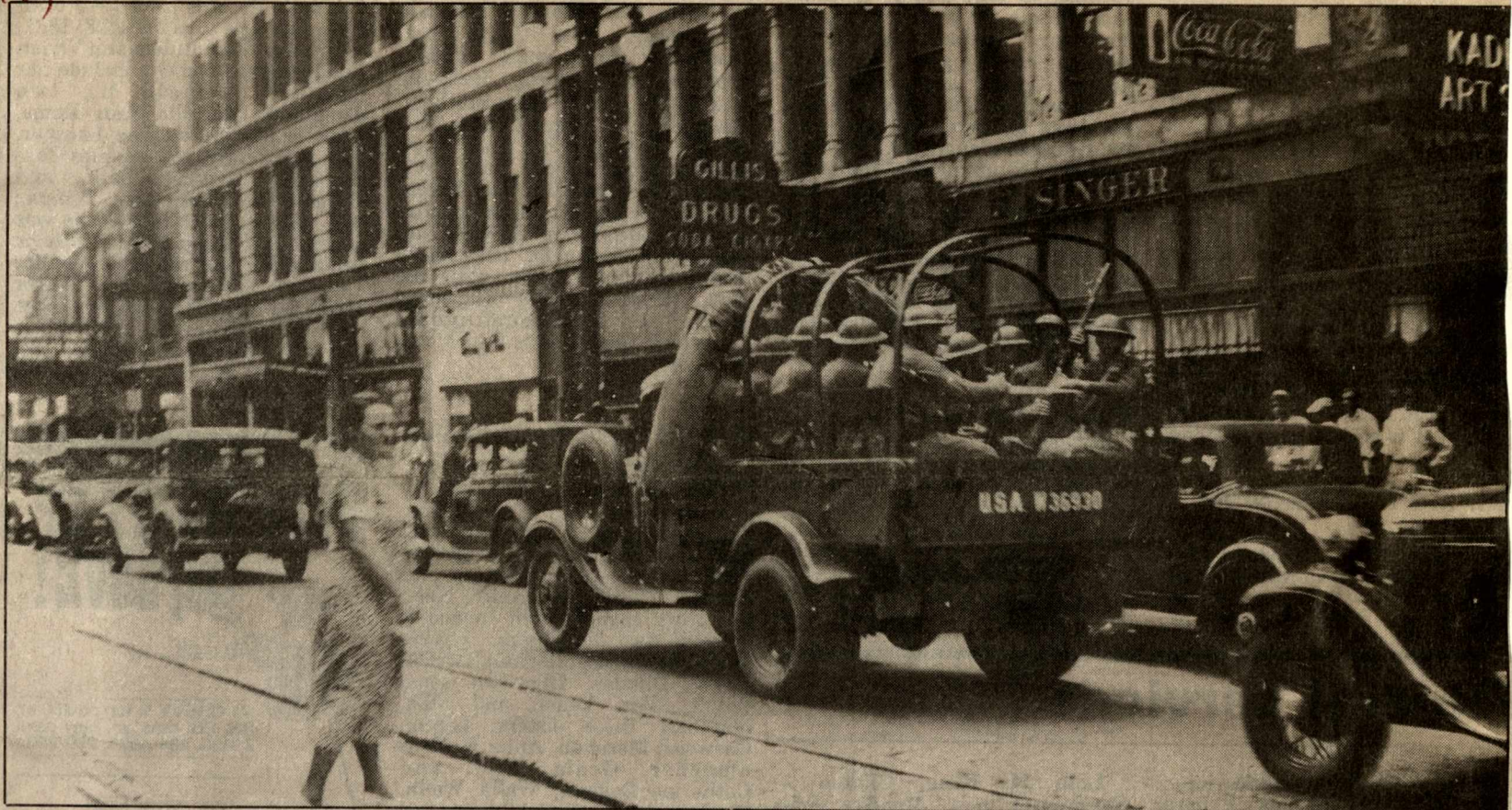
By Jan Chait  
Tribune-Star Staff Reporter

Terre Haute residents awoke from their sleep on a sultry morning 50 years ago Monday, picked up the Terre Haute Star from the front porch and found a small headline which read, "Strike Threat Set for Today Is Diminished."

They also awoke that Monday morning "to find all public transportation facilities halted and all stores, restaurants, gasoline stations and motion picture houses closed," the Star dated the following day said.

Tuesday's headlines were more pronounced: "STATE TROOPS ESTABLISH MARTIAL LAW IN VIGO CO.; STRIKE PARALYZES CITY," they screamed. "General Walkout of 15,000 Union Workers Leaves Terre Haute Without Transportation Facilities, Closes Stores and Factories."

The strike began at 1 a.m. on July 22, 1935, was about 90 percent effective the first day, partially effective the next day, and resulted in Terre Haute being placed under martial law until the following February.



**Martial law:** National guardsman patrol Wabash Avenue during general strike.

Photo courtesy Kenneth Martin



Hospitals and pharmacies were allowed to remain open. Power remained uninterrupted despite attempts to short-circuit transmission lines by throwing chains across them.

The strike was called after officials of Columbian Enameling and Stamping Co., now General Housewares Corp., imported about 50 guards into Terre Haute, reportedly to provide protection for nonunion workers the company planned to hire.

A formal statement issued by union representatives on July 19 said, "unless these strike breakers are deported out of Vigo County by or before 1 a.m. Monday, July 22,

1935, we, organized labor of every craft and industry in the city and county, will declare a labor holiday..."

It was hot that month. By July 12, 44 heat-related deaths had been recorded in the Midwest.

On July 19, as union leaders prepared their ultimatum, two local residents collapsed of heat prostration and were taken to hospitals, one to Union and one to St. Anthony's, the predecessor of Regional Hospital.

An appeal was published asking residents "to give support to launching of the Volunteers of America and Tribune-Star Ice Fund, which will provide free ice to needy and destitute families of the city.

"The torrid heat of the past week has resulted in sickness in many homes where babies, invalids, old persons and others are confined to their beds.

"Down on South Second Street is a distressed mother of a 2-month-old baby, a sweet little thing, but its milk had been souring until [someone] took the first ice Sunday which has been in the home since last summer."

Even that bit of charity was affected by the strike.

Retired Star Editor Lawrence Sawyer recalled recently that he drove his car east at the time of the strike and "didn't find a gas station open until I got to Seelyville."

Local newspapers show a continuity in publication, but issues

dated July 23 may not have been distributed.

Page one notices on both papers dated July 23 say publication of those issues were "delayed."

The Star went a bit further in its explanation: "Particularly, work in the composing room was suspended about 9:30 o'clock when a mob of approximately sixty men came up the back stairway into the composing room and demanded that work cease under a threat of 'wrecking the place' if it did not. The foreman of the department had been instructed by the management to acquiesce to such demands under such circumstances."

However, not all did.

"Guarding her small grocery store with a shotgun, Mrs. Grace

Moser continued to operate her place of business throughout the 'labor holiday' until her regular closing hour at 10 o'clock Monday night," the July 24 paper said.

"After having been threatened by striking groups throughout the day and facing their demands with her weapon, Mrs. Moser was forced to call in the aid of police at 9:45 o'clock Monday night so that she might safely remain open 15 minutes longer."

Earl C. Rodgers, who lived on South Third Street across from what is now International Minerals and Chemical Corp., recalls his neighborhood grocer telling people

See "Strike," Page A6  
Related stories, Pages A6-7



# Strike • Continued from Page A1

to come to the back door.

"The first day, and for two or three days after, people were afraid to come to the front," Rodgers said.

Not much damage was done on July 22, but National Guardsmen used tear-gas bombs to disperse an estimated 6,000 persons who gathered at Columbian on July 23.

About 150 were arrested that day, including an Indiana State Teachers College professor "who claimed his rights 'as a citizen' when troopers told him to move on."

"I remember very vividly seeing the National Guard with machine guns mounted on the backs of their trucks driving up and down the street in front of my house," Rodgers said.

"Even as a 7-year-old, I could feel the panic, the crisis."

A master's thesis on the strike written in 1982 by Gary V. Bailey says that nearly all troops were removed from the city by week's end, although martial law legally remained in effect until February 1936.

"The martial law provisions, nevertheless, had an immediate and chilling effect on Terre Haute labor," Bailey wrote.

"The declaration of martial law had not by itself broken the general strike: as one newspaper noted, 'the alacrity with which [local businessmen] got their cash registers in operation' and the quick resumption of publication by local newspapers after the union statement ending the strike 'left little doubt as to the strength of the influences that had closed the city.'"



# Before the 'Labor Holiday' Year's negotiations preceded strike

Is JUL 21 1935

By Frances Hughes  
Special to The Tribune-Star

The "Labor Holiday" — the third general strike in U.S. history — actually started March 23, 1935, when members of Federal Labor Union No. 19694 struck the Columbian Enameling and Stamping Co.

When the American Federation of Labor started organizing the working people of Terre Haute in 1934, 450 of approximately 500 production workers at the Columbian Co. joined the union. This made it the largest and strongest union in Terre Haute.

American laboring people had been given the right to organize and bargain collectively with their employers by the National Industrial Recovery Act. That law was enacted during President Franklin D. Roosevelt's first administration.

After management refused to sign the original proposal for a contract, the union took a strike vote. A new proposal was drafted and signed by both parties on July 14, 1934, after the chairman of the Regional Labor Board intervened.

The one-year agreement provided that if either party desired to terminate or modify the contract, a 30-day notice should be given. It also provided for arbitration in case of an unsettled dispute.

Because insurance premiums had been checked off members' paychecks and paid to the union without authorization for 10 years, the union's scale committee asked for a check-off of union dues on Aug. 8, 1934.

The company refused, and this issue led to a breach between the company and the union.

On Oct. 23, the union gave a 30-day notice asking for modification of the original contract.

The following Nov. 26 the two parties met to discuss a closed shop and a 20 percent increase in salaries.

Werner Grabbe, plant manager, declined both requests and on Jan. 4, 1935, a demand again was made by the union. Instead of replying, management issued circular letters to individual workers.

After arbitration was requested on Feb. 5, 1935, the company again replied with circular letters. The strike was then called on March 23 with the union permitting 35 union men to keep the plant's powerhouse operating. Columbian management announced that the plant would be closed indefinitely on March 30.

The closed shop was the strike's main issue. The union had the sympathy of the labor movement in Terre Haute and surrounding towns. Mine workers, craft unions,

garment workers and others rallied at Indiana State Teachers College gymnasium in support.

To add to the union's problem, the United States Supreme Court ruled that the National Industrial Recovery Act was nullified in May.

A more tense situation developed when the company placed an ad in local papers stating that the strike had been called to force the company to discharge non-union employees. It also stated that the plant would open only without union recognition and would hire both union and non-union employees.

Claiming that the company was taking advantage of the NRA nullification, the union called a meeting of its scale committee with the management for June 11, 1935.

When the plant reopened, workers were compelled to take a wage reduction and to lengthen their working hours. Wages, always low, had been cut three times by the company since the start of the Great Depression.

Seven extra guards entered the plant on June 15. They were sworn in by city officials.

Violence and damage to the plant started when windows were broken. City police were called. It was a question as to who caused the damage. Some of the crowd that had gathered outside the plant broke into the building and found live cartridges in the offices there.



Although no machinery was harmed by the mob that then developed, offices were torn apart at an estimated \$10,000 damage. The union claimed that it could not control the mob because it was led by outside elements.

Special police were escorted from the plant the next day and the union claimed it had stationed 24 men to protect the property. Though the union asked city officials to prevent it, 50 "guards" were brought in, many from Chicago, with the aid of the National Metal Trades Association on July 17.

City police met the bus at Memorial Stadium, put the men in trucks and escorted them to the plant. Police also escorted a car filled with guns and ammunition from the home of one of the company officials to Columbian.

Union representatives of approximately 50 unions in the city then declared a "labor holiday" on July 22 because these "strike breakers" were not removed from the plant. A meeting of the unions, Chamber of Commerce and Merchants Association representatives the day before did not prevent this. Although asked to attend, Columbian officials did not.

At a mass meeting at the Vigo County Courthouse to protest the hiring of the armed guards, the Vigo County Central Labor Union attempted to avert the general

**B**ut that failed. On Monday, July 22, the general strike began with the walkout of the car and bus motormen.

Because the newspapers had used little about the situation, the strike came as a surprise to most of Terre Haute's non-laboring people.

By 9 a.m., the general strike was 90 percent effective. It was estimated that 20,000 workers took part. There was no public transportation. Unionized restaurants, barber shops, filling stations and taverns were closed.

Major industries in the city also went on strike, as well as packing houses and every retail establishment in downtown district. Eight coal mines in the vicinity were closed and building trades workmen stopped work.

Even the movie theaters were closed and there were no milk nor ice deliveries until Max Schafer, vice president of the Central Labor Union, gave orders that milk was to be supplied to homes where there were babies. Doctors and hospitals also were supplied with everything they needed.

Because it would have been a violation of their contracts, members of the Typographical Union and other craft unions of the Tribune-Star did not walk out. Because many laboring people thought that the newspapers were instruments of the Chamber of Commerce, a club-carrying mob threatened to break up the machinery if publishing did not stop. That was enough to disrupt publication of the July 23 issues of the Tribune and Star.

When the situation became a crisis, city officials called on Governor Paul McNutt to intervene and re-establish law and order.

The governor declared martial law and sent in National Guard troops. Because large groups of people could not congregate, there could be no picketing, and the strike became ineffective.

Sixty-six officers and 1,023 enlisted men of the National Guard, with Brigadier General Wray DePrez in full command, moved in late Monday evening. Six hundred of them went to Columbian, where a crowd of 2,000 tried to keep them from entering the plant.

Tear gas from city police and reversed rifles of the guardsmen stopped the mob there. Machine guns were set up in the plant and at outposts two blocks away in all directions by the guardsmen, and truck loads of troops drove up and down the downtown streets so that businesses could open. Guardsmen were stationed at the newspapers, Dresser plant and water works.

By Tuesday, the general strike had been broken. Management of the Columbian Co. agreed to meet with the strike committee by

arrangement of the Department of Labor. Later, C.B. Gorby, company president, refused this meeting.

Using non-union labor, Columbian opened on Wednesday morning with workers entering the plant under the protection of guardsmen. Imported guards were removed from the premises.

By Aug. 19, the strike was completely broken, but a token force of 15 guardsmen remained and martial law stayed in effect for approximately six months.

**I**t took much longer for all of the strike's issues to be resolved. It took the U.S. Supreme Court to do it.

That hearing before the nation's highest court began on July 29, 1935, business and professional men organized into the Terre Haute Law and Order League. The league was apprehensive about reductions in the number of guardsmen here.

The league was composed of 300 men, leaders of the Terre Haute Retail Merchants Association, Chamber of Commerce, Manufacturers and Employers Association and the Terre Haute Real Estate Board.

With goals of "revoking martial law, re-establishing fair play for the worker and putting an end to employer coercion, maintaining the right of workers to organize and returning workers to their constitutional rights," the Labor Union Defense Committee organized in retaliation.

Always looking for a potential election issue, the Socialist Party came to the aid of the Labor Defense Committee.

A petition was then filed in U.S. District Court on Sept. 20, 1935, asking for a permanent injunction against the enforcement of martial law. This was filed in behalf of the labor movement.

Judge Robert C. Baltzell of the Southern District Federal Court on Oct. 7 denied the petition, upholding martial law.

This brought about a meeting called by the Labor Defense Committee between two members of the Vigo County Central Labor Union executive committee, Mayor Sam Beecher, Vigo County Prosecutor Raymond Kearns, Sheriff William Baker and Governor McNutt on Oct. 18, 1935.

McNutt revoked martial law Feb. 10, 1936.

In the meantime, on Nov. 21, 1935, the union charged Columbian Co. with unfair labor practices. The National Labor Relations Board, in turn, filed a complaint against Columbian.

The NLRB found in favor of the union and ordered Columbian to comply. But the Circuit Court of Appeals, Seventh District, refused to enforce the NLRB order.

The NLRB then appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court. The high court upheld the NLRB's position.



Community Affairs File

~~Clark Dorothy~~

its name?

# Tidbits from yellowed clippings

## Is 1870s parlor game how 'hanky panky' got

History (TH) +

T s JUL 28 1985

Aged scrapbooks turn up in my office, coming from estate settlements, attic trunks and brought in by persons searching for family roots. Much local history can be gleaned from the yellowed clippings, obituaries, photos and other memorabilia pasted in the scrapbooks by long-gone ancestors.

This writer seems to spend many hours pouring over these examples of primary and secondary sources of history and genealogy at the decided risk of having a dust allergy flare-up.

According to their interest, scrapbook makers clipped for future reference the items that caught their eye in the daily and weekly newspapers and other publications. Much of it is now considered useless, outdated information, but it's still interesting — everything from the best way to clean marble, to how to prevent boots from squeaking on entering a sick room or church after the service has commenced.

My neighbors would benefit from

### Historically speaking



Clark is Vigo County's official historian and formerly worked for The Terre Haute Tribune.

By Dorothy Clark  
Special to The Tribune-Star

reading the old-time instructions for washing a carriage properly. Beginning with two large sponges and two chamois, one never worked in the sun. Soaking dirt first was the secret so it would not scratch the carriage's varnish.

Passenger trains don't stop in Terre Haute any more, but one clipping advised those traveling on sleeping cars to remember that berths should be made up to travel

feet first while sleeping. It was considered by some authorities to be much better for the brain.

Even as now, newspaper editors then liked to include humorous items, like this one: "A new bustle has just come into market, patented by a Kansan, with a blow-off and escape valve. When the wearer sits down the air escapes up her spine, loosens her corset strings, and blows up her back bangs in the most fashionable pose.

"When she stands up, the action tightens the strings, expands her bustle, whistles to her dog, sticks a pin in her escort, and other things too numerous to mention."

To prevent flyblown picture frames, this household hint was given. "Boil three or four onions in a pint of water. Then with a gilding brush go over your glasses and frames and the flies will not alight on the article so washed ... it will not do the least injury to the frames."

Modern readers can get rid of

two pests if they can find (or grow their own) Black Hellebore and the herb Pennyroyal. "To destroy cockroaches, strew the roots of Black Hellebore at night and they will be found in the morning dead or dying. Black Hellebore grows in marshy grounds and may be had at the herb shops."

"To de-flea cats and dogs, throw them into a decoction of the herb Pennyroyal once a week," stated the old-fashioned hint. "You can also saturate strings in Oil of Pennyroyal and tie around their necks also." Who knows? It might do as much good as expensive flea collars, and sure would be a darned sight cheaper.

Public gatherings in earlier days must have resembled a Boy Scout troop practicing with signal flags. During the 1870s Grandpa and Grandma needed to know all the right signals for a handkerchief flirtation.

If she drew her hanky across her lips, it meant she wanted to get

acquainted. Drawing it across the eyes meant she was sorry. Dropping the hanky meant, "We will be friends."

If she let the hanky rest on her right cheek it signified "Yes," on the left cheek "No." If she twirled the hanky in her left hand it meant she wished to get rid of the young man; twirling it in the right hand said she loved another.

Folding the hanky signaled she wished to speak to her boyfriend. If she tossed it over her shoulder she was saying, "Follow me." Winding the hanky around her forefinger told him she was engaged, but winding it around her third finger told him she was married. Drawing the hanky across her forehead warned him they were being watched.

In these days of Puffs and Kleenex, the young people can't have nearly as much fun as their ancestors did. Woe betide the flirting couples if they got their



hanky signals mixed up.

Old scrapbooks tell how to remove strong, heavy, musty odors from wooden bowls. They advise making a paste of baking soda and water (not too thick) and rubbing on the bowl for a few minutes before rinsing and wiping dry.

If a maple bed headboard is dulled by fingerprints, the advice is to wash with a solution of equal parts of vinegar, mineral oil and turpentine. This solution should be shaken well and applied with a soft cloth. Then apply a coat of good furniture polish.

A cookbook published in 1872 by the ladies of the Congregational Church offered a surprising recipe for "Moonshine." One pound of sugar and 1½ pints of boiling water were boiled 'til clear and one ounce of tartaric acid added. When it was cold, it was flavored and bottled. Two tablespoons of this Moonshine along with a fourth teaspoon of soda made a nice summer drink.

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VIGO COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY  
TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

# bright past Booklet unveils pictures of Terre Haute's

In 1904, The Tribune-Gazette published a pictorial booklet depicting the major assets of the city, as well as a few of its outstanding civic leaders. Some of the assets remain, and the work of those civic leaders have established a sound base on which the community grows.

Collett Park is shown, and in the background is the stone building which remains in the park. Wabash Avenue is shown with its street car lines west from Eighth Street. On the corner is the Bement-Rea Co., wholesale grocery firm. The old Terre Haute House with its turret towers is seen. There is an empty lot on the southwest corner, now occupied by The Tribune-Star building,

formerly the Liberty and Grand theaters. T's AUG 1 1985

The old bridge across the Wabash River is pictured, its use discontinued as the new bridge was opened (also pictured). The old bridge, at the foot of Ohio street, was covered, and at times was a toll bridge. It was built in 1865.

The Rose Orphans Home at 25th and Main streets, now the site of K-Mart Plaza, was a copy of a French castle. The Courthouse is shown, as is Indiana State Normal's "Old Main." The Post Office, with its columns, the Grand Opera House and the Rose Dispensary building are also pictured.

A scene of Ohio Street east from Sixth

## Main Street



Richard Tuttle, who retired from The Tribune-Star in 1983, is a walking compendium of Terre Haute history.

By Richard C. Tuttle  
Assistant Editor Emeritus

Street has only the Congregational Church, with several large homes in

view. Rose Polytechnic at 13th and Locust streets is pictured, later Gerstmeyer High School, then razed for Chauncey Rose Junior High School campus.

Residences of Herman Hulman, C.W. Minshall, A. Froeb, Fred B. Smith, Joseph Strong, Mrs. A.J. Crawford, Jay H. Keyes, James S. Barcus and W.R. McKeen are included. Among the leaders shown are Judge D.N. Taylor, C.W. Mancourt, Sydney B. Davis, Demas Deming, W.C. Buntin, Dr. S.J. Young, W.R. McKeen, Preston Hussey, Crawford Fairbanks, A. Herz, George E. Farrington, Col. W.L. McLean, E.P. Wright, L.F. Perdue, Dan Davis, J. Smith Talley.

Also B.G. Hudnut, C.C. Oakey, Col. E.E. South, J.H.C. Royse, E.H. Bindley (founder of Bindley Co.) Judge S.C. Stimson, H.P. Townley, Louis J. Cox, W.W. Parsons (president of Indiana Normal), James E. Piety, Jacob C. Kolsem, Eugene V. Debs, A.Z. Foster (merchant), D.W. Henry, Rev. V.A. Schnell, John Paddock, B.V. Marshall, S.E. Gray, John T. Beasley, Spencer F. Ball, S.R. Hamill, Dr. W.O. Jenkins, W.H. Albrecht, Herbert Briggs, W.A. Hamilton, Arthur Baur (druggist), S.C. Budd, Fred Smith, Horace Tune (merchant), Charles R. Duffin, Harry Hutton, Robert G. Watson, Gabriel Davis, Dr. T.C. Stunkard, F.M. Buckingham, Max Ehrmann, Marx Meyers and James Barcus.

Community Affairs File



T s AUG 8 1985

★ History (TH)

(Tuttle)

# Fuel, water and railroads once were city's assets

Last week, a publication of The Tribune-Gazette "Terre Haute of Today" issued in 1903, was discussed. Later in the same year, September, F.J. Gardon compiled and published a hard-back book "20th Century Souvenir of Terre Haute".

William E. McLean, who wrote an introduction in the book, points out that the city was actually celebrating its golden jubilee, having been incorporated in 1853, at which time a census of sorts indicated 1,200 persons lived in the city. Under incorporation, the first mayor was William K. Edwards, a young attorney and had served as Chauncy Rose's private secretary when he first arrived from Louisville.

The three major assets of Terre Haute, as listed in the introductory were cheap fuel, pure water and

railroads. Henry C. Steeg was mayor and Frank Buckingham, city clerk and comptroller. Those serving on the board of public works and safety were Patrick B. Walsh, Joseph W. Lauer, Silas C. Beach, John R. Barbazette, John R. Coffin, and Taylor Bledsoe.

The book featured business and industry in the city in the form of advertisers. Members of the police department were shown individually. Three reporters were also shown: Mont L. Casey of The Tribune; Charles T. Jewett of The Star; and H.K. Burton of The Tribune.

The "Big Five" were pictured: Col. Thomas H. Nelson as holder of many appointive offices; Col. William E. McLean as the "silver tongued orator of the Wabash"; Col. Richard W. Thompson, "the old man eloquent"; Sen. Daniel W. Vorhees, "tall Sycamore of the Wabash"; and W.R. McKeen, ex-president of the Terre Haute and Indianapolis Railroad Co.

There were seven fire stations, all

with horse-drawn equipment. Among the industries advertising in the book were National Drain Tile Co., S.C. Cowgill, president and plants at Hillsdale, Summitville, Montezuma and Terre Haute; Highland Iron and Steel Co., one of the last cold-rolled steel plants in the nation when it closed in the 1960s.

Also A.H. Springer Foundry at 901 N. 10th St.; Ray Bros., Buggy and Implement Co. at 29 N. Fourth St.; Root Glass Co.; Baesler & Wittenbrock, meat market at 1404 Main St.; National State Bank, Preston Hussey, president; and Government Standard Scale Works, M.H. Winslow, president.

Others were Prox & Burget Co., plumbing and heating; Jos. Strong & Co., coffee and spices; McKeen's Bank at Sixth and Main streets; N.C. Kintz Planing Mill; Nick's Place, Gustav Nicolai, owner; Woodland Valley Mining Co., John L. Walsh, president; Cook, Bell and Black, wholesale druggists; The Health Office, Al Myers owner, at 503 Wabash; Oak Hall Saloon, W. Voges, owner, at 717 Main St.; Thorman & Schloss, tailors, at Fifth and Main; H.E. Stees Co., undertakers, at 112 N. Fifth St.; and Terre Haute Brewing Co. at Ninth and Poplar streets.

Also the Union Hotel at Ninth and Chestnut streets (now Industrial Supply Co.); Stout and Pickett, buggy and harness; Columbian Enameling and Stamping Co.; Brown's Business College at Sixth and Main streets; Vigo County National Bank, R.G. Hudnut, president; Prox & Brinkman Mfg. Co. at 201 N. Ninth St.; Hulman and Co.; Stahl Urban & Co., overalls; and Moore-Langen Printing Co., printers of the book.

## Main Street



Richard Tuttle, who retired from The Tribune-Star in 1983, is a walking compendium of Terre Haute's history.

By Richard C. Tuttle  
Assistant Editor Emeritus

Community Affairs File

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